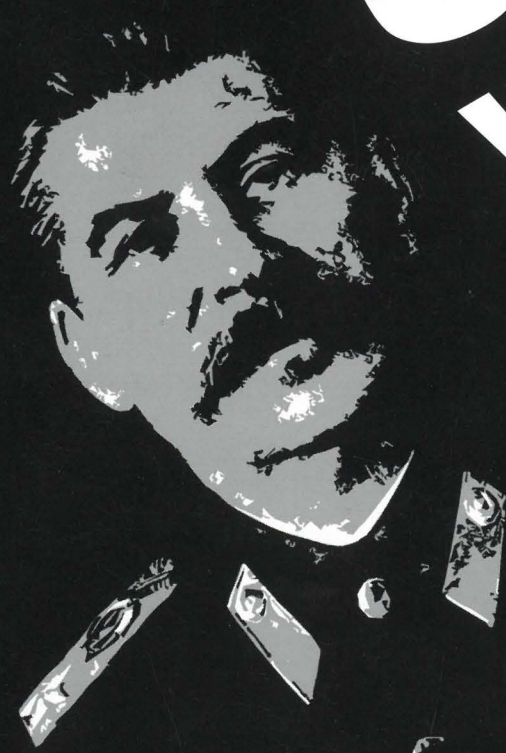


1937

STALIN'S Year of Terror

Helmut T. Huebert



Kolyma
Magadan
Perm
Arkhangelsk
Solovetsky
Novosibirsk
Kazakhstan
Joseph Stalin
Andrey Vyshizsky
Nikolai Yezhov
The Troika
White Sea Canal
Moscow
Oktoberfeld
Neuhof
Kolkhoz
Komi
Melitopol Prison

1951

STALIN'S

Year of Terror

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Helmut T. Huebert



Winnipeg, Canada
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1937 – STALIN'S YEAR OF TERROR

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DEDICATION

This book is not the Bible, but the reasons for writing it
are very similar to those which Luke mentioned
in the first few lines of his account of the
life and death of Jesus Christ.

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative
of the things which have been accomplished among us,
just as they were delivered to us by those who from the
beginning were eye witnesses and ministers of the word,
it seemed good to me also, having followed all things
closely for some time past, to write an orderly account
for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the
truth concerning the things of which you have been informed.
Luke 1:1-4

In writing this book, an attempt is being made to counter
the flow of history.

In a review of the book,
“The Forsaken: An American Tragedy in Stalin’s Russia”
published in August 9, 2008,
the concluding comments are:
“When the eye-witnesses, perpetrators and victims are all dead,
the real story of a crime dies too.”

There still are those alive, by now mostly children or grandchildren,
of those who suffered in 1937.

This book is dedicated to the truth of what happened, and to those who
suffered as a result of the atrocities inflicted.
The real story of this crime should not be allowed to die

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication.....	v
Table of Contents.....	vi
Foreword.....	viii
Preface.....	xi
Cartoon “You were always a great friend of mine, Joseph”.....	xiii
 The Year 1937.....	 1
Solzhenitsyn and 1937.....	2
 The Perpetrators.....	 5
Joseph Stalin.....	7
Nikolai Ivanovich Yezhov.....	16
Andrey Yanuaryevich Vyshinsky.....	19
Soviet Secret Police.....	22
A Saving Grace?	
Nadezhda Konstaninova Krupskaya.....	25
The Process	
The Prelude to Arrest.....	28
Arrest and Imprisonment.....	29
The Gulag.....	31
Map of the Gulag.....	34
Victims of the Purge.....	35
The Great Purge 1936-1938.....	36
Mennonite Districts and Villages.....	38
Map of Mennonite Colonies in South Russia about 1914.....	46
List of Individual Mennonites Imprisoned/Exiled/Executed in 1937.....	47
156 pages, 1962 specific names	
Brief Biographies of Some of the Victims arrested in 1937.....	203
Peter Jakob Andres (1878-1937?).....	204
Abraham Abraham Baerg (1890-1937?).....	206
Kornelius Peter Bergmann (1872-1937).....	207
Isaak Peter Buller (1897-1938).....	209
Aron Aron Dueck (about 1895-1937?).....	212
Peter Johann Dyck (1884-1937).....	214
Heinrich Johann Froese (1906-1937).....	217
Johann Johann Giesbrecht (1908-1940s).....	219
Gerhard Christian Hamm (1883-1937).....	221
Heinrich Johann Huebert (1883-1940).....	223
Nikolai Heinrich Huebert (1905-1937?).....	225
Peter David Huebert (1898-1942).....	226
Johann Martin Janzen (1885- ?).....	228

Abraham Abraham Konrad (1898-1943).....	230
Johann Johann Loewen (1871-1937).....	232
Nikolai Johann Loewen (1910-1937).....	235
Kornelius Kornelius Martens (1880-1938).....	238
David Peter Neufeld (1883-1937?).....	242
Gerhard Wilhelm Neufeld (1905-1943).....	243
Wilhelm Peter Neufeld (1873-1937).....	245
Peter Kornelius Peters (1886-1938).....	247
Gerhard Kornelius Plett (1892-1937?).....	249
Isaak Johann Poettker (about 1895-after 1937).....	250
Abraham Abraham Rempel (1903-1937).....	252
Gerhard Jakob Rempel (1885-1937).....	254
Nikolai Peter Rempel (1891-1938?).....	259
Peter Jakob Sawatzky (1886- ?).....	260
Peter Jakob Toews (1897-1943).....	262
Peter Peter Wiebe (1900-1937?).....	263
Additional Pictures of Victims.....	265
Last Words... ..	266
Poetry written by the Victims	
1937 - by Anna Neugebauer.....	267
Abram Duerksen and Jakob Regehr.....	269
North American German Mennonite Press in 1937	
<i>Zionsbote</i>	270
<i>Die Mennonitische Rundschau</i>	271
<i>Der Bote</i>	274
Forgive?.....	276
Epilogue - Those Remaining.....	277
Sources.....	279
About the Author.....	281

FOREWORD

Some historians believe that the first Mennonite with permanent residence in Russia was one Dr Nicholas Bidloo. Peter the Great recruited him, it is held, on an "incognito" trip to The Netherlands, and employed him then at the imperial court for some years. Not many other details of his stay are available yet. One wants to assume that his services were appreciated by the czar and others of the court.

The first large group of Mennonite settler emigrants to Russia were more than two hundred families from the free city of Danzig and West Prussia who came to New (that is southern) Russia in 1788-89. This happened in the time of Catherine the Great, when the region was under the direction of Vice Regent Grigorii Potemkin. These colonists formed a small contingent of a much larger group of foreign settlers, Lutheran and Catholic Germans, and various other national groups, who came to live in Russia during those years. A Russian governing department, commonly called the Guardians' Committee, carried direct responsibility for the proper settling and support of these newcomers for the next hundred years or so.

Russian support for the new colonists was often less efficient and adequate to meet the needs of the colonists, than it should have been. It nevertheless remained in the interest of Russia's highest authorities to assist these foreign colonists in order to maximize the contribution which they could make to Russia's development, especially in newly acquired areas of the empire. The relatively generous terms of their settlement were designed to reflect this broad objective. Like many Russians, Mennonites too looked to the czar as a beneficent ruler who understood their needs and who solemnly promised to help them as needed in their new homeland.

The contract terms, the *Privilegium*, given to the Mennonites, did, as the word clearly says, provide a significant kind of privileged existence for the colonists. Local Russians came to see quickly that this assistance surpassed by a good deal the assistance given to the national population to extend settlement throughout the land. These favouring policies, if we may call them that, remained in effect in some ways, if not always formally, right up to the 1917 revolution.

Russian czars continued to uphold this supportive status of the Mennonite colonists, as originally formulated, up to the time of Alexander II. At that time the trauma of the Crimean War, a call for dealing more seriously with the problems of serfdom, changes in European politics (German unification and the rise of Prussian militarism) and the emergence of a seeming liberal-democratic (better said populist) intelligentsia, fed the call for major reforms in Russian society and government.

The reforms which did come, brought also a call for universal military conscription, which directly contradicted Mennonite pacifist thinking, the exemption privileges given at the time of the initial settlement. Along with the growth of minority assimilationist thinking not supportive of Mennonite self-government and ethnic maintenance goals, came other changes which seemed to the Mennonites to represent a very different, that is, less supporting government policies than they had experienced until then. Those who would lead the Mennonite emigration of the 1870s, to Canada and the USA, stressed the potential threat of these emerging changes to core Mennonite values, representing a fundamental rejection of the *Privilegium* rights upheld by all Russian rulers throughout the period of Mennonite life in Russia up to that point.

As a matter of fact a number of factors worked to undermine the special status of minority

groups like Mennonites in the post Crimean War period. One was the exposure of weaknesses in Russian military power during this war. Another was, as stated, the rise of German power in central Europe. To that were added the voices of revolutionary questioning of czarist authority among young Russian intellectuals, and clearly anti-German sentiments expressed by Russian nationalist/panslav journalists as well as other publicists who linked the threat of Prussia's growing military prominence to a problem of "foreign" land ownership, notably Germans (including Mennonites) in southern and other parts of Russia.

This issue grew in force during the Duma period of 1906-1917. It culminated in new laws of land expropriation (fueled by increasing peasant demands for land) which would have come to include Mennonite land owners as well, if the abdication of Czar Nicholas II had not given way to the tentative provisional socialist government of Alexander Kerensky. The war itself had brought a great deal of anti-German prejudice to bear on Mennonites as well.

Bolshevik control of the nation after 1917 would now add other dangers to Mennonite security and general well-being. The Civil War, with the havoc wreaked by the warring Red and White armies, and notably the attacks on landed estates and other German settlements, led by Nestor Makhno and other anarchist Ukrainian warlords, as well as disease and famine, killing thousands in Mennonite communities, almost completely destroyed the infrastructures of Mennonite and a great many other communities.

The anti-religious dogmas of Communism, and the enforcement of state ownership of all property, and emerging programs such as collectivization under Stalin, and the mounting terrorist policies already by Lenin, to subdue all elements resistant or viewed as possibly being that, to the new regime, boded evil for the future of Russia generally. Russian Mennonites could not escape the results of these policies unless they left the country, and tens of thousands subsequently did just that. Others were left to survive as best they could under atheistic dictatorial Communist rule in the years that followed.

The peaking, under Stalin, of destruction, total control and escalating purges of individuals and any groups resistant to Red government rule, actually stood in a long tradition of sporadic tyrannically autocratic czarist rule. That tradition included stories of brutal suppression, notably under Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, Nicholas I, Alexander III and even Nicholas II, under whom the peaceful demonstration led in the capital by Father Gapon became a symbol of brutality that helped to finish off czarist control.

What people could not foresee in Russia and elsewhere was the fact that the repressive regimes of the rulers in control who succeeded the czars would make all earlier expressions of force and brutal violence pale in comparison.

Stalin's rule would forever etch itself on the pages of history as an example of the unimaginable lengths to which such suppression and destruction of huge segments of the population could be taken when for a long time there seemed to be no measures and resources left in the land to put on brakes, and call an end to the outright killings of many millions of Russians, including Mennonites, which are brought to our attention in the study undertaken here.

The story of "1937" presents in most painfully stark outline what this mini-holocaust, if you would, the Stalin purging policies came to mean for Mennonites in particular. In so doing this account provides a more complete picture of these horrible realities than all other studies have done till now.

Certainly this picture must encourage us to practise a watchful eye regarding going-on in smaller and larger national arenas where raw power, violence and repression continue to be the order of the day, and it could be said, remain the bedrock of governmental rule, no matter how benign this authority might wish to appear, and, on the surface, seem to be. To call into question in some way these kinds of abuses is a call to all of us who will read these pages

We do learn from history, that is to say, that history does in fact not infrequently repeat itself. With respect to "1937" we must hope and pray that it never will.

Lawrence Klippenstein
Steinbach, Manitoba
July 2009

PREFACE

This book focuses on 1937, the worst year of Stalin's Great Purge, concentrating mainly on what happened to the Mennonites in the USSR. It is realized that many other significant events occurred in other parts of the world, especially those leading up to the start of World War II. It is also realized that many other events occurred in the USSR in 1937, not directly related to the Great Purge. Even the Great Purge in the USSR can be thought of in a wider time span, at least 1936 to 1938 or even 1939.

It is recognized that the term "Great Purge" is understood in different ways. Some historians limit the term to only the purging of the top echelons of the Communist Party, but many feel that this ignores the vast majority of those who suffered during this time. They were purged in the same way, with the same motivation, the crimes perpetrated by the same people. We therefore will continue to use the term in the broad sense.

The Great Purge involved millions of people across the whole Soviet Union, not only Mennonites. While some claim that the percentage of Mennonites arrested was no higher than the average, there is evidence that minorities, religious groups, the intelligentsia and those perceived to have been wealthy or privileged (kulaks) were especially targeted. There are specific instances where virtually all the Mennonite men from a village were arrested, whereas their Russian and Ukrainian neighbours were not. Besides the overall master lists, local jealousies on occasion also played a part. Reporting the neighbour as an "enemy of the people" assured his elimination from the scene.

It has often been difficult to find out what actually happened to those who were arrested. Many were soon convicted of various crimes, and were sent into exile for varying lengths of terms, seldom less than five years, more often ten or twenty. Survival rates of those sent to the Gulag were very low, due to difficult conditions, especially starvation; very few staggered out alive after long terms. It was later discovered that many who were said to have been exiled were actually executed, often within a day or two of their incarceration, some even that same night. The usual answer given to those who later inquired about their loved ones was that the victims had died of pneumonia or heart failure, often two years after the exile was to have begun. Those who had been beaten to death as part of their torture died of "a heart attack." True, their hearts did stop. The obvious problem with these reports was that the same people who had carried out the atrocities were now giving out the "information."

Who was responsible for the Great Purge? It is my strong conviction that Joseph Stalin was directly responsible. The solution was simple; for his enemies it was either prolonged exile or death. He had early accepted the philosophy that the most effective way to deal with opponents was to kill them, together with all their relatives and friends. As Stalin became more powerful, and by the early 1930s the absolute dictator of the Soviet Union, he could expand this to whomever he wished. It is also my conviction that Stalin was very clever, very patient and would usually wait for the right time to spring his traps. He was also very inventive. Various categories of crimes for which millions of people suffered sprang entirely from the imagination of Joseph Stalin. It is ironic that "Enemy of the People" was used as a rallying cry by the greatest enemy that the Russian people ever had. One cannot excuse Stalin on the basis of his being the great executive who oversaw the bigger picture, but was unaware of the details. He often signed specific lists of those who were to be executed; he

knew exactly what was happening. As part of the book I have included a brief biography of this man, who I believe exemplified evil.

Joseph Stalin did not personally execute those he condemned to death. For that he used the NKVD Soviet Secret Police. In 1937 the head of the secret police was Nikolai Ivanovich Yezhov. Stalin would make his list, Yezhov would find or manufacture the required evidence, then exile or execute those involved. Yezhov was a “hands on” participant in the process. On occasion he would come to meetings of the Politburo with blood-spattered clothing - the blood of those he had been torturing that morning. I have also included the biography of this man, who directly carried out the gruesome designs of Joseph Stalin.

Stalin was peculiar in that he wanted, on the surface, that everything should appear to be legal. Andrey Yanuaryevich Vyshinsky gave him this basis. Vyshinsky was a lawyer, and the prosecutor in a number of the famous “Show Trials.” In a distorted sense he set the legal framework for convictions in the Soviet era. The most important evidence, according to Vyshinsky, trumping any other findings, was the confession of guilt by the victim. It did not matter at all how this confession was obtained; confession under extreme torture was just as valid as true freely given admissions. That is why Yezhov dared to come to Politburo meetings with blood on his clothing. It was a sign that he was enthusiastically applying the legal terms of his job.

In 1937 a number of women were also arrested and jailed. Some of them apparently wrote to Nadezhda Konstantinova Krupskaya, and in a few months they and their children were released. Krupskaya was a dedicated Bolshevik, but she did champion the cause of women and children. It is quite possible that she played a part in their release.

The greater part of this book documents the stories of Mennonites who were arrested and sentenced in 1937, during the most brutal time of the Great Purge. In a sense this is meant to directly counter the underlying Soviet philosophy of the time. Those who suffered were not an undefined general mass of “enemies” or “traitors” or “saboteurs” which needed to be annihilated and then forgotten. They were largely totally innocent people who lived, worked, loved, laughed and cried. I will not allow Stalin to sentence them into oblivion. One way not to forget is to document their lives. On a personal note, my two uncles and their families must not be forgotten; the five uncles of Architect Rudy Friesen of Winnipeg, taken in one night, must not be forgotten. But neither must the perpetrators of these crimes be forgotten. Their crimes against humanity must be documented with equal dedication!

All Mennonite victims that could be specifically identified as having been arrested in 1937 are included in a master-list. Where there is enough information, even pictures, a mini-biography is written about the life and death of Mennonite victims. Here I must specifically thank Dr Peter Letkemann of Winnipeg for his willingness to share his extensive information about the atrocities Mennonites have suffered, especially in the Stalin era of Soviet rule. I have designated this information as “Letkemann Notes” or in the master-list as “L N.”

Undoubtedly I have missed many names, but it is not through lack of interest or diligence. I have specifically limited the time period to 1937, my excuse being that this gives an adequate slice of time to serve as a detailed snapshot of what happened in this horrendous chapter of history.

Helmut T Huebert
July 2009



"You were always a great friend of mine, Joseph"

Cartoon by Herblock which appeared in the newspapers 7 March 1953. It was chosen cartoon of the year by Time Magazine

THE YEAR 1937

From the point of view of world history, 1937 was just an ordinary year.

The dirigible "Hindenburg" burned at its dock at Lakehurst, New Jersey on 6 May. The disaster was described in the first transcontinental radio broadcast

The Golden Gate Bridge opened in San Francisco, California, on 27 May

Amelia Earhart was lost on a trans-Pacific flight, last heard from on 2 June

The Duke of Windsor (former King Edward VIII) married Mrs Wallis Simpson on 3 June.

The coronation of George VI was on 12 May, the originally intended date of the coronation of Edward VIII

The Spanish Civil War was raging, with rebels taking Malaga; the government moved to Barcelona

President F D Roosevelt signed the US Neutrality Act

Poland refused to sign an agreement to return Danzig to Germany

Neville Chamberlain became Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Lord Halifax visited Hitler, beginning the time of appeasement

Prince Konoye was named Japanese Premier. Aggressive Japanese war policy began

The Japanese seized Peking, Shanghai, Nanking and Hangchow; Chiang Kai-Shek united with the Communists to present a united front

The Royal Commission on Palestine recommended the establishment of Jewish and Arab states

Britain signed naval agreements with Germany and the Soviet Union

Riots in the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia; Sudeten Germans left the Czech parliament

Albert Speer became Hitler's chief architect

Ernst Hemingway wrote "To Have and Have Not," while John Steinbeck penned "Of Mice and Men"

They were singing "The Lady is a Tramp," "Whistle While You Work," and "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm"

Meanwhile in the Soviet Union the "Show Trials" against Karl Redek and other political leaders took place; there was a purge of USSR generals. Marshal Tukhachevsky was executed

So much for the World Stage. Obviously the broad strokes painted on the larger scene do not show the millions of individuals who suffered in many places, particularly in the prisons and concentration camps of Germany and the Soviet Union.

And so we will concentrate our attention on the Soviet Union, where the first of the "Show Trials" was only the tip of the iceberg of human suffering.

SOLZHENITSYN AND 1937

Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008), Russian writer and dissident, first sprang onto the Western radar screen with publication of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* in 1962. For the purposes of this book we have elected to study an abridged version of his most famous writing, *The Gulag Archipelago: 1918-1956*. A number of sections will be used to illustrate life as he portrayed it. He debunks several myths, for example that it was mainly high officials that were arrested. He lays the blame firmly where it belongs - at the feet of Joseph Stalin. From here on let Solzhenitsyn speak for himself:



Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Every story of 1937 that is printed ... relates without exception the tragedy of the Communist leaders. ...that the history of 1937 and 1938 consisted chiefly of the arrests of the big Communists – and virtually no one else. But out of the millions arrested at that time, important Party and state officials could not possibly represented more than 10 percent. Most of the relatives standing in line with food parcels outside the Leningrad prisons were lower class women...

The real law underlying the arrests of those years was the assignment of quotas... every city, every district, every military unit was assigned a specific quota of arrests to be carried out by a stipulated time...

It would also be incorrect to ascribe to 1937 the “discovery” that the personal confession of an accused person was more important than any other kind of proof or facts. This concept had already been formulated in the twenties. And 1937 was just the year when the brilliant teaching of Vyshinsky came into its own. Incidentally, even at that time, his teaching was transmitted only to interrogators and prosecutors – for the sake of their morale and steadfastness.

As always, Stalin did not pronounce that final word, and his subordinates had to guess what he wanted ...he left himself an escape hole...For the first time in human history the calculated torture of millions was being undertaken, and even with all his strength and power, Stalin could not be absolutely sure of success.

N Stolyarova recalls an old woman who was her neighbour on the Butyrka bunks in 1937. They kept on interrogating her every night. Two years earlier, a former Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church, who had escaped from exile, had spent a night at her home on his way through Moscow...At first the interrogators took turns, and then they went after her in groups, they shook their fists in the little old woman's face, and she replied: “There is nothing you can do with me even if you cut me

into pieces. After all, you are afraid of your bosses, and you are afraid of each other, and you are even afraid of killing me...But I am not afraid of anything, I would be glad to be judged by God right this minute.”

There were such people in 1937...who did not return to their cell for their bundles of belongings, who chose death, who *signed* nothing denouncing anyone.

...orthodox Communists who made a display of their ideological orthodoxy...they were named the “call-up of 1937”... even at the peak they were not the only ones being arrested, and those same peasants, and workers, and young people, and engineers, and technicians, and agronomists, and economists, and ordinary believers continued to stream in as well.

In evaluating 1937 for the Archipelago, we refused it the title of crowning glory. But here, in talking about *freedom*, we have to grant it this corroded crown of betrayal; one has to admit that this was the particular year that broke the soul of our *freedom* and opened it wide to corruption on a mass scale...

Every act of resistance to the government required heroism quite out of proportion to the magnitude of the act. It was safer to keep dynamite during the rule of Alexander II than it was to shelter the orphan of an enemy of the people under Stalin. Nonetheless, how many such children were taken in and saved....

The permanent lie becomes the only safe form of existence, in the same way as betrayal...There exists a collection of ready-made phrases, of labels, a selection of ready-made lies.

The business of banishment was immeasurably improved and speeded up when they drove the first *special settlers* into exile. In the year of the Great Break they designated the dekulakized as “special settlers” – and this made for much greater flexibility and efficiency; it left no grounds for appeal...

Even *He* (Stalin) was slow to realize the value of his discovery. His first experiment was very cautious. In 1937 some tens of thousands of those suspicious Koreans were swiftly and quietly transferred from the Far East to Kazakhstan. So swiftly that they spent the first winter in mud-brick houses without windows...so quietly that nobody except the neighboring Kazhaks learned of this resettlement, no one who counted let slip a word about it, no foreign correspondent uttered a squeak.

In a declaration by the Soviet Government dated December, 1964, we read: “The perpetrators of monstrous crimes must never and in no circumstances escape just retribution...”
But they show no desire to face judgement *themselves*...

While in the records office they carry out a leisurely inspection and destroy all unwanted documents: lists of people shot, orders committing prisoners to solitary confinement or the Disciplinary Barracks, files on investigations in the camps, denunciations from stoolies, superfluous information about practical workers and convoy guards.

The Perpetrators

Joseph Stalin

Nikolai Ivanovich Yezhov

Andrey Yanuaryevich Vyshinsky

Soviet Secret Police

A Saving Grace?

Nadezhda Konstaninova Krupskaya

The Process

The Prelude to Arrest

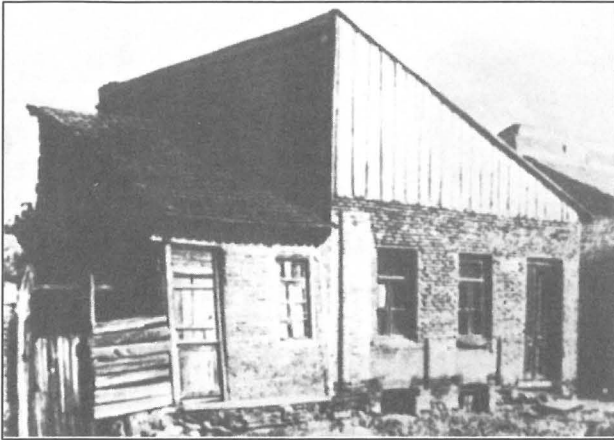
Arrest and Imprisonment

The Gulag

Map of the Gulag

JOSEPH STALIN

(Nicknames: Vozhd, Koba, Comrade Stalin, Uncle Joseph)
(1879-1953)



Stalin's birthplace in Gori, Georgia, before it was restored

Joseph Stalin was born Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili, on 21 December 1879 in the provincial Georgian town of Gori, in the Caucasus. At the time Georgia was an Imperial Russian Colony.

His parents were Vissarion Dzhugashvili and Ekaterina Geladze. He was the third child, two previous sons dying in infancy. Iosif's father was a cobbler, who, at first, owned his own workshop. With time he turned into an alcoholic. His business failed and he became abusive to wife and



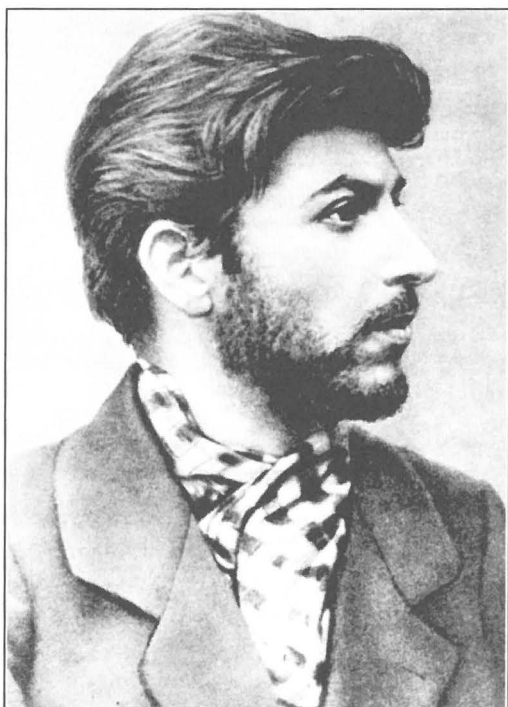
Stalin's mother,
Ekaterina

child. The family moved from place to place as the financial situation worsened, living in at least nine different places in the first ten years of Stalin's life. There are suspicions that he was actually the child of one of the priests who employed his mother as washerwoman.

Gori was a violent and virtually lawless town. A culture of violence included gang warfare and street brawls. Stalin participated in the street fights as a child, at times challenging stronger and larger opponents. Not surprisingly, this resulted in him being beaten up on numerous occasions. Despite the objections of his father, Stalin began his education at the Gori Church School in 1886, continuing in this institution until 1894. Stalin was a good student, apparently earning top marks in all subjects. He had a great interest in learning, was a very good singer, and even began writing poetry. He certainly continued to pursue reading a wide variety of literature throughout his life. The local language was Georgian, but in school students were forced to speak Russian. Throughout his life Stalin spoke Russian with a guttural Georgian accent.

In 1894 Stalin moved to the Tiflis Theological Seminary. Here he secretly read Karl Marx and other forbidden texts. He was expelled from the seminary in 1899, according to "legendary" reports for revolutionary activities. According to his mother it may have been for something as mundane as his health. In any case his mother's dream of her son becoming a priest did not quite come to fruition.

Stalin probably looked more like a ruffian than a priest in any case. He was short, stocky, and had very fierce eyes with a penetrating gaze. He had an abnormality of his left arm, possibly the result of an injury sustained during his exile. He had a swarthy face, pock-marked from smallpox which he had as a child. Later photographs were touched up to hide this feature. He had psoriasis,



Stalin in 1900

a chronic skin condition often associated with arthritis. His left second and third toes were webbed. Physically Stalin was strong. He was described as having prodigious willpower, and was well able to disguise his true feelings. According to the blood-feud tradition of his home country, he could plot long-term revenge on those who crossed his will.

In December of 1899 Stalin, for a short time, became a clerk in the Tiflis Observatory, apparently the only paid employment he ever had outside of politics. In 1900 he joined the political underground and spent his time fomenting labour unrest and strikes in the Caucasus area. The Social Democrats (Marxist revolutionaries) split into two factions in 1903 – Menshevik and Bolshevik. Stalin joined the more militant Bolsheviks, becoming a disciple of their leader, Lenin.

Between 1902 and March 1913 Stalin was arrested for revolutionary activity on seven occasions. He was repeatedly imprisoned and exiled. His light sentences and seeming ease in escaping exile raise suspicions that he may actually have been a double agent.

Stalin slowly rose up the Bolshevik Party hierarchy. He attended major congress sessions of the Social Democrats in 1905 (Tampere), 1906 (Stockholm), and 1907 (London). He helped plot a holdup in Tiflis in 1907, basically to fund the Bolshevik Party. In February 1912 Lenin co-opted him to serve in the first Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party. In 1913, at the request of Lenin, he published an important article on Marxism.

By 1913 Joseph had adopted the name “Stalin,” meaning “steel” in Russian. He briefly edited the newly founded Bolshevik newspaper “Pravda,” then was again exiled, this time July 1913 to March 1917, his longest period of exile. Upon his return to Petrograd on 25 March 1917 he resumed the editorship of “Pravda.” At first advocating cooperation with the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky, he was, under the influence of Lenin, converted to a more militant policy of armed ascent to power by the Bolsheviks. He played a part in the October Revolution, but less prominent than his rival Leon Trotsky.

Stalin was active during the Civil War, 1918-1920. He held two ministerial positions in the new Bolshevik government, Commissar for Nationalities (1917-1923) and Commissar for Worker-



Secret police identification card, 1913

Peasant Inspection (1919-1923). During this time Lenin dispatched Stalin to “organize Tsaritsyn.” This was a strategic city on the lower Volga River, by Bolshevik standards beset by ineptitude and betrayal. He steamed into the city on 6 April 1918 on an armoured train with 400 Red Guards. Stalin showed that he meant business by “shooting any suspected counter-revolutionaries.” It was here that he grasped the convenience of death as the simplest and most effective political tool. This tool was later refined to include all relatives and friends of his enemies, even including totally fabricated relationships. It was said that the Bolsheviks embraced a cult of glamorous violence, a macho brutality, which Stalin accepted and refined as his own. In 1929 Tsaritsyn was renamed Stalingrad.

In 1922 Stalin was appointed secretary-general of the Bolshevik Party’s Central Committee, a position he held until his death, and which provided him with the power base for his subsequent dictatorship. He was also a member of the Politburo and many other committees, and skillfully used his bureaucratic positions to out-manuever his rivals.

The ailing Lenin had some misgivings about Stalin, and a year before his death wrote a “testament” calling for Stalin’s removal from the secretary-generalship. But the “Testament” was suppressed until it was too late. Lenin’s health had been slowly failing after an assassination attempt in 1918, which had left two bullets in his body, one in his arm, the other in his neck. Finally a series of strokes ended his life on 21 January 1924. After Lenin’s death Stalin promoted a virtual cult, almost deifying the deceased leader, but also strongly promoted his own cult.



Lenin and Stalin in 1922

Leon Trotsky had been Lenin’s heir apparent, but he was now ousted by the triumvirate of Stalin, Grigory Zinoviev and Lev Kamenev. Soon, however, Stalin with the rightist leaders Nikolai Bukharin and Aleksey Rykov formed an alliance against the other two members of the triumvirate. By 1928 Leon Trotsky had been expelled from the party, and in 1929 he was deported from the Soviet Union. Subsequently, having ties to Trotsky, real or most often imagined, was reason enough for Stalin to have someone arrested and often executed. Stalin finally had Trotsky assassinated by an NKVD agent in Mexico in August 1940. He was attacked with an ice pick on 20 August, and died the following day.

In 1928 Stalin initiated state-organized industrialization in a number of five-year plans. To do this the brunt of the suffering fell on the peasantry, where 25,000,000 households were compelled to amalgamate into collective farms (*kolkhoz*). It is strange that a political party so dedicated to the people totally ignored the will of the people! Those who resisted or showed any signs of having been successful farmers were called *kulaks*, were displaced off their land, disenfranchised, and often exiled into an ever-expanding network of concentration camps. Or they were simply shot. Grain was requisitioned by the government to be used for export, the resulting starvation also serving as a means of suppression. Probably at least 10,000,000 peasants died because of these policies, at least 7,000,000 in the Ukraine alone. The Bolshevik magnates travelled through the countryside, often by train, past villages filled with the bloated bodies of the dying, on their way to their holiday parties.

By 1929 Stalin had bested or eliminated, first the enemies of the Bolsheviks, then his own personal enemies. This was done in part by putting himself in charge of party personnel decisions, but also by using information gathered for him by the secret police. That year he put in place policies that would ensure his own power, but would also change the Soviet economy and society at large. His drive toward rapid industrialization was almost hysterical, with 20% increased output per year being the objective to be achieved at any cost.

In 1903 Stalin married a Georgian girl, Ekaterina Svanidze, actually in a church. She died 25 November 1907 of typhus. She left Stalin with a son, Jakob. Stalin considered him to be a weakling, and treated him with contempt. During World War II Jakob was taken prisoner by the Germans; Stalin refused a German offer of exchange for his son. Much of the Svandidze family was executed by Stalin during the Great Purge.

In 1919 Stalin married a pretty young secretary, Nadezhda Alliluyeva. They had two children. Son Vasily rose in rank in the Soviet Air Force, although he did not merit the advancement. He died an alcoholic. Daughter Svetlana went through a series of marriages, eventually emigrated, and after Stalin's death wrote her memoirs. Wife Nadezhda (Nadya) was a full-fledged Communist, so she was probably aware of Stalin's activities, but was also close to mental imbalance. She committed suicide after a party held at the Kremlin on 8 November 1932. This event is thought by some to have reinforced Stalin's penchant for getting rid of all enemies. Eventually he had everyone executed who he thought could have influenced Nadya to commit suicide. The only exception was Molotov's wife Polina. She was only exiled.

In 1926 Sergey Kirov became party secretary in the Leningrad area, then advanced to be a Politburo member in 1930. He was a very close friend and supporter of Joseph Stalin. Stalin was shy socially, possibly because of his left arm deformity or his psoriasis. Apparently Kirov was the only one among the leaders who went to the baths with him. After the Seventeenth Party Congress of 1934, however, Kirov opposed Stalin's personal rule. He was very popular, probably too popular. It is thought that Stalin likely arranged for his assassination on 1 December 1934.

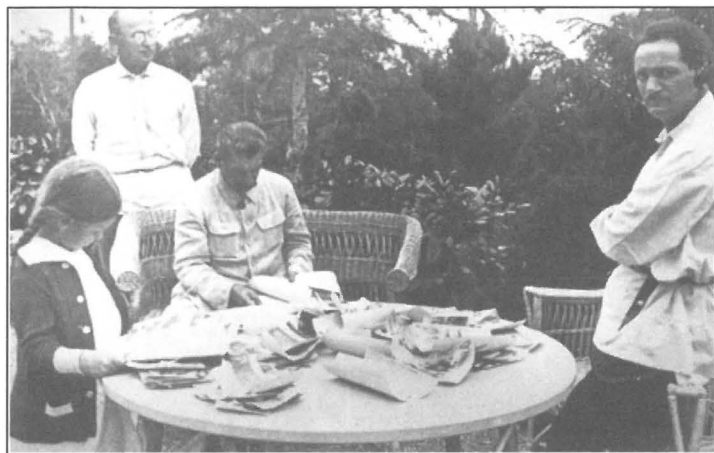
Stalin used the pretext of blame for this murder to unleash an unprecedented witch-hunt, which then rapidly expanded to include many others for various "crimes." Stalin had a strange fetish that externally everything should have the appearance of being legitimate. He himself promulgated the laws which made it possible to convict almost anyone of being an "enemy of the people." Accusations were made totally out of context or were totally fabricated, but the confessions of victims, signed under the duress of extreme, violent and prolonged torture, tended in his mind and those of his colleagues, to lend an appearance of justice. Those "convicted" were then exiled to an ever expanding network of concentration camps, or more conveniently, were shot.

Stalin himself took a personal interest in the concentration camps. He put them into the hands of the secret police (at the time the OGPU). This removed them from the ordinary judicial scrutiny, such as it was, and left the secret police bureaucracy in complete control, subject of course to Stalin's whims. It was said that Stalin selected the victims, "and his subordinates leaped at the opportunity to obey him."

Stalin did not often directly intervene in the operation of the Gulag, but his one skirmish into the field was carried out during the worst years of the Great Purge. The system of possible early release for good behavior was dismantled. Stalin himself put an end to the early releases, arguing that this disrupted the daily operations of the camps. They should receive medals instead!

One of Stalin's pet projects was the construction of the White Sea Canal. It had long been a Russian dream to connect the White Sea of the Russian north with the Baltic Sea. Stalin would be placed ahead of Peter the Great in the history books by achieving this goal! It was to be 141 miles (about 227 kilometres) in length, hewn through solid granite using very rudimentary, mostly wooden, tools. This was to be done by prison labour only, and completed in 20 months. Unfortunately the criteria allowed the canal to be only 4 metres (13 feet) deep, so it could not be used by large ships or submarines. About 170,000 prisoners were used; over 25,000 died, although some estimates are up to 100,000 deaths. The deadlines were met and the canal was opened on 2 August 1933 to the delight of a proud Stalin.

Stalin's actual method of directing the affairs of the country was interesting, but also incredibly crude. He held banquets which the Bolshevik magnates were forced to attend. They often



Stalin at work at his Sochi dacha, often reading many pages, writing orders in red crayon; watching are Svetlana, Beria and Lakoba

started late in the evening and lasted until almost dawn. The magnates had to take careful notes at these banquets. Hints mentioned in an offhand manner were not hints, they were orders, reinforced by the death penalty if not implemented – immediately! Sometimes orders came as vague scrawls with Stalin's red crayon on various notes. A check mark on a list could mean death for the individual involved.

The mentality of the leaders of the vast Soviet Union is astounding. In the summer of 1933, for example, Molotov received a report that a factory in Zaporozhye was producing defective harvester components. Stalin and

Molotov agreed that their system was perfect, and their ideology scientifically correct, so all industrial blunders must be the result of sabotage, and carried out by "enemies of the people," preferably spies. So they sent someone to investigate, to find the spies. This particular incident is unique in that the local officials actually defended the factory! But this mentality illustrates the mindset of Stalin and his magnates. Later this factory did pay the price, when its leading personnel were arrested in 1937, and a number of them were executed, despite having won the "Order of Lenin" for their excellent work in 1931.

Upon conviction of real or imagined crimes, the actual carrying out of the arrests, extracting of confessions and setting up the court appearances was the job of the NKVD. Stalin himself never attended torture sessions or executions, although he must have seen some during his time in Tsaritsyn. Very often lists were brought to Stalin, and he would check off the intended victims or sign the orders of execution. The NKVD would then have to make sure that the paper work was done. Genrikh Yagoda was appointed head of the "People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs" NKVD on 10 July 1934. Later that year Yagoda arrested Grigory Zinoviev, Lev Kamenev, Ivan Smirnov and thirteen others, accusing them of being involved with Leon Trotsky in a plot to murder

Stalin and other leaders. In the first of three “Show Trials” they were all found guilty and executed 25 August 1936. So it was that Stalin got rid of the other two members of the Triumvirate that originally put him into power. Yagoda was one of the “founding fathers” of the Gulag Concentration Camp network.

However, Yagoda was slow in “finding” enough evidence to convict Nikolai Bukharin and others, so he was sacked 16 September 1936. Nikolai Yezhov replaced him at the helm of the NKVD. He was an expert at finding evidence. Yezhov found that Yagoda had sprayed mercury on his office curtains, so Yagoda was arrested and eventually condemned to death. It was common to put an interrogator into the cells of the condemned. Yagoda told his interrogator, “You can put down in your report to Yezhov that I said there must be a God after all. From Stalin I deserved nothing but gratitude for my faithful service; from God, I deserved the most severe punishment for having violated his commandments thousands of times. Now look where I am and judge for yourself; is there a God or not?”

It should be noted that the Soviets under Stalin had their own unique definitions of words. “Terrorism” simply signified any doubts about the policies or character of Stalin. All political opponents were “assassins.” More than two “terrorists” was a conspiracy; putting together such killers from different factions created a “Unified Centre.” “Enemy of the people” was not only one who committed sabotage, but according to Stalin, any one who doubted the party line. These terms were freely used in the Great Purge.



The Stalin Cult at its height

Yezhov rapidly gathered more “evidence,” arranging for the arrest of all the leading politicians who were at all critical of Stalin. This led to the second of the “Show Trials” of January 1937 in which all but four of the 17 on trial were condemned to death. Later in 1937 there were secret trials of the military, also known as the “Tukhachevsky Affair,” leading to a number of executions of high ranking Red Army officers on the night of 11 June. The third “Show Trial” of the Twenty-One was held in March of 1938. Nikolai Bukharin, Aleksey Rykov (the two leaders who had helped Stalin overcome the triumvirate), as well as Genrikh Yagoda, the former NKVD head, were among those condemned to death. All were eventually executed, Yagoda on 15 March 1938. Eventually the Great Purge, at this point engineered by Stalin and Yezhov, involved the military, the Communist Party, kulaks, intelligentsia, racial minority groups, religious groups, anyone with outside connections and eventually even the NKVD itself.

Late in 1938 Stalin sent a circular to the NKVD hierarchy complimenting them for “inflicting a crushing defeat on espionage, on subversive agents of foreign intelligence services and for purging the country of subversive insurrectionary and espionage cadres.”

In time even Stalin recognized that he was bleeding the country dry. By 1939 the number executions actually decreased. Yezhov fell out of favour. On 22 August 1938 Lavrenty Beria became partner in heading the Commissariat. On 3 March 1939 Yezhov was relieved of all his posts; he was executed 4 February 1940. After that his image was even airbrushed out of all photographs connected with Stalin.

Then came the "Great Patriotic War." One hundred and forty two German divisions invaded the Soviet Union at 4 AM on 22 June 1941. Napoleon had invaded Russia on the same day in 1812. At first Stalin's micro-management of the war ended in disaster. German advances continued even beyond their own wildest dreams. In July 1941 they thought the war was almost over. In time, however, with more reliance on the military, with the tremendous distances, the bitter winters as well as help from the Western Allies, the tide turned. The Battle for Stalingrad in the winter of 1942 and the Tank Battle of Kursk in the summer of 1943 were definite turning points.



Yalta Conference 4-11 February 1945, with Winston Churchill, Franklin D Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin

Stalin participated in high-level meetings of the "Big Three" in Tehran (1943) and Yalta (1945). He was acclaimed as "Uncle Joseph," the other leaders little realizing what kind of a totally inhuman beast they were negotiating with. After the war a tight colonial rule was imposed on Eastern Europe; by these agreements Stalin had increased the number of subjects of his dictatorship by a hundred million. He imposed Purges, similar to the one he had imposed on his own subjects, on his East European vassals. Later analysts commented "...to admit that by sending thousands of Russians to their deaths by forcefully repatriating them after the war, or by consigning millions of people to Soviet rule at Yalta, the Western

Allies might have helped others to commit crimes against humanity, would undermine the moral clarity of our memories of the era. No one wants to think that we defeated one mass murderer with the help of another."

Stalin's health was faltering. Still somewhat in the Purge mode, he began persecuting Jews and doctors. With a series of strokes in 1953 his own doctors could not be called in to help. They were being tortured in prison.

Joseph Stalin breathed his last on 5 March 1953, surrounded by members of the Politburo. Beria and a few other leaders had already sped to the Kremlin to ransack Stalin's office and destroy incriminating documents. Beria later claimed that he had poisoned Stalin.

Stalin was embalmed. On 9 March 1953 Molotov, Beria and Krushchev spoke at his funeral. He was then laid in the Mausoleum beside Lenin.

Nikita Krushchev made a secret "de-Stalinization speech to the twentieth Congress of the

Communist Party on the night of 24 February 1956. Some of his accusations ring true, surprisingly coming from someone who had actually participated in many of the actions himself. He decried: brutal violence toward everyone who opposed him, capricious and despotic character, originating the concept of “enemy of the people,” inaugurating a rule of the most cruel repression, gaining confessions with the help of cruel and inhuman torture, being ignorant of the country at large.

On 30 October 1961, at the twenty-second Congress of the party, the delegates voted unanimously to remove Stalin’s remains from the place beside Lenin in the Mausoleum, for reburial alongside, but outside the Kremlin wall. Stalin’s name was removed from the tomb. Shortly after these discussions Stalingrad was renamed Volgograd.

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It is not easy to speculate how Stalin “got away with it.” How was he able to manipulate circumstances to the extent that he would become the most effective and most prolific murderer of all time? Some features which seem to come from his story are:

1. Stalin was exceedingly clever; he skillfully used and manipulated people to achieve his own will with exceptional dexterity.
2. Stalin was very patient. He could wait for years until he finally sprang the traps on his enemies.
3. Stalin was able to instill fear. What appeared to be totally random actions in many instances made it impossible to predict what he would do. His underlings lived in steady fear if they did not obey his every whim.
4. Stalin was the ultimate egotist. He implied that his actions were the best for the Party and the country. At times there may have been slight basis for this thought, but both Party and country took a distant second place to his own need to remain in total control.
6. Stalin, although he knew the Bible and could sing hymns, did not believe that there was any being beyond himself to which he one day would have to answer.
7. Stalin appeared to be the direct personification of evil. He took whatever measures were necessary to implement his own selfish agenda. He used any means, including killing his “friends” and all their relatives and friends. There is no obvious rational explanation for his actions other than to assume that he was inherently evil.

Stalin’s effectiveness was enhanced by a culture where democracy was not known, where brutal force was the common method of dealing with problems. It was also enhanced by a culture where corruption and lying were the norm. The actual truth of the matter played no part in any decisions or actions. The Great Purge was made so much more effective because a large percentage of the population could easily be made to believe the “Big Lie.” The fact that most of the victims could not possibly have done what they were accused of seemed to play no part in the cruelty perpetrated at many levels of society. It is true that there is a kind-hearted and gentle streak in the Russian character, but in many instances of Russian history, particularly during the Soviet era, this has been effectively overcome.

Not much has changed in Russia over the years. An evaluation published in 2008 concludes “Russia today is ruled by the KGB elite, has a Soviet Anthem, servile media, corrupt courts and a rubber-stamping parliament.”

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NIKOLAI IVANOVICH YEZHOV

(1895-1940)

(Nicknames: Blackberry, The Bloody Dwarf, The Poisoned Dwarf)

(Also Kolya, Kostya and Kolyushenka)

Yezhov was the most prominent figure of the NKVD Soviet Secret Police during the Great Purge, to the extent that it was sometimes known as the “Yezhovschina” or the “Yezhov Era.”



Nikolai Yezhov

Nikolai Ivanovich Yezhov was born in Mariampole, Lithuania, on 1 May 1895 to a forest warden who ran a tea-room/brothel, and a maid. Official Communist propaganda had him born in St Petersburg. He completed only two or three years of primary school. In 1909, at the age of 14, he worked in a factory, at textiles and machinery. In 1910 he was apprentice to a tailor, then in 1911 to a mechanic. From 1913 to 1917 he was in the Czarist Army; too short to actually be a soldier, he mended guns. Yezhov joined the Bolsheviks 5 May 1917 in Vitebsk, a few months before the October Revolution. He fought with the Red Army during the Civil War, 1919-1921.

Yezhov was apparently liked by many of the people he met. He appeared to be gentle, humane and tactful. His face was almost beautiful, his grin wide, his green-blue eyes bright and clever. He had thick black hair. Women liked him, and he was flirtatious and playful. Physically he was skinny and tiny, almost a dwarf at 151 centimetres (4 foot 11½ inches). He was

a workaholic, always dressed in a cheap crumpled suit, and chattered away in his Leningrad accent.

By 1921 Yezhov was working in the Tatar Republic, but after February 1922 he was busy in the Soviet political system, usually as secretary of various regional committees. In 1927 he was transferred to the Accounting and Distribution Department of the Communist Party, where he was both instructor and acting head. From 1929 to 1930 he was Deputy of the People's Commissar for Agriculture. November 1930 he was appointed head of several departments of the Communist Party – Special Affairs, Personnel and Industry. Then followed election to the Central Committee, and in 1935 he became secretary of the Central Committee; he was also Chairman of the Central Commission for Party Control. Also in 1935 he wrote a paper arguing that political opposition eventually leads to violence and terrorism. This set the ideological stage for the Great Purge.

Following the dismissal of Genrikh Yagoda, Yezhov became the People's Commissar for Internal Affairs, that is, the head of the NKVD, on 26 September 1936. With this weapon, and his diabolical inventiveness, he was able to implement every whim of Stalin, to eliminate any real or imagined enemy. He worked on the philosophy that it was worth having ten innocent people suffer rather than letting one spy escape his net.

Yezhov married the Marxist Antonia Titova in 1919. But with the promiscuous lifestyle of the Communist hierarchy it is not surprising that the marriage did not last. The slim, lively Yevgenia Feigenberg attracted his attention. He divorced Antonia and married Yevgenia in 1930. They adopted the four-year-old Natasha in 1936. It is possible (probable?) that Natasha was actually the

daughter of one of her adoptive parents, likely Yezhov. Yevgenia died in 1938; it is thought that she was murdered by Yezhov, probably poisoned.

Under the direction of Yezhov the Great Purge swung into action. The Communist Party itself was “cleansed” with any possible opponent of Stalin being eliminated. There were 1,966 delegates to the Party Congress in 1934; 1,108 were arrested and most eventually executed. Of 139 members of the Central Committee, 98 were arrested. Half of the Soviet political and military establishments were imprisoned or shot. Even the NKVD itself was purged, removing many officials who had been appointed by his predecessors Yagoda and Menzhinsky, although Yezhov’s own appointees were not immune. This lust for blood also spread well beyond direct or potential enemies of Stalin. Intellectuals, religious people, minority groups and ethnic groups all suffered. Mennonites, while certainly not the only ones targeted, would have been included as religious people, as a minority ethnic group, many living in Ukraine, which also received special treatment.

Yezhov was head of the NKVD, but he also participated in its day-to-day activities. He often attended morning Politburo meetings, coming straight from the torture chambers. Krushchev on one occasion noted spots of clotted blood on the hem and cuffs of Yezhov’s shirt. With pride he replied that the specks were the blood of “enemies of the Revolution.” It is no wonder that he was called “The Poisoned Dwarf” or “The Bloody Dwarf.” Altogether it is estimated that in the Great Purge, orchestrated to a large degree by Yezhov, 19,800,000 persons were arrested, and about 7,000,000 executed or starved to death. Many of the prisoners were beaten so hard that their eyes literally popped out. When they were beaten to death, this was then registered as a “heart attack.” There were many heart attacks in the Soviet Union in 1937.



Beria and Yezhov

The height of Yezhov’s career was on 20 December 1937, when a big gala was held at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the NKVD. Portraits of Yezhov hung side-by-side with Stalin. Yezhov received an “uproarious greeting” for learning the “Stalin way to work.”

But the slide had begun. Nobody’s picture could hang side-by-side with that of Stalin. On 19 January 1938 he was appointed member of the Council of People’s Commissars. On 21 August Yezhov was confirmed People’s Commissar of Water Transport. This was definitely a demotion! On 22 August Lavrenty Beria became deputy and partner and took over the governance of the Commissariat; Yezhov was relieved of his post as the People’s Commissar for Internal Affairs at his own request on 25 November 1938. Beria succeeded him.

On 3 March 1939 Yezhov was relieved of all of his posts, and on 10 April 1939 was arrested and imprisoned at the Sukhanovka Prison. On 3 February 1940 he was sentenced to death by Soviet judge Vasili Ulrikh. He was executed on 4 February 1940. Before his execution, according to one



Nikolai, Yevgenia
and Natasha

witness, he was ordered to undress himself and was beaten by the guards. After cremation his ashes were dumped into a common grave at Donskoi Cemetery.



Molotov, Stalin and Yezhov at the opening of the Moscow-Volga Canal in 1937



Molotov and Stalin at the opening of the Moscow-Volga Canal

Nikolai Ivanovich Yezhov then disappeared. His image was even airbrushed out of pictures where he had been photographed with Stalin. Fame and infamy are both fleeting!

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ANDREY YANUARYEVICH VYSHINSKY
(1883-1954)

Andrey Yanuaryevich Vyshinsky was born in Odessa on 28 November 1883, into an affluent Polish family. He probably had a good primary and secondary education in his home city. He joined the Menshevik wing of the Social Democratic Party in 1903. He was active in the Revolution of 1905 and was imprisoned some time thereafter. At one occasion during this time he shared a cell with Joseph Stalin; apparently he and Stalin had numerous political arguments, Menshevik versus Bolshevik. Vyshinsky's parents sent him hampers of food, which he shared with Stalin. This act of kindness may well have saved his life. To the surprise of many Stalin would never hold Vyshinsky's former Menshevik views against him.

Vyshinsky took his law degree at the University of Kiev in 1913. He joined the government as a left-wing Menshevik in 1917, but after his party's collapse joined the Bolshevik Party in 1920. He held a position involving supply until 1921. He began to teach at the University of Moscow, being Professor of Criminal Law 1923-1925, then Rector of the university 1925-1928. While



Andrey Vyshinsky

teaching at the university and practicing law as a prosecutor he acquired a reputation as a legal theoretician; in 1928 he was appointed to the collegium of the Commissariat of Education. During his career he wrote a number of books, "The Law of the Soviet State," "Lenin and Stalin," "The USSR and World Peace." He wrote monographs such as "Theory of Judicial Proofs in Soviet Justice." For this he received the Stalin Prize in 1947.

Andrey was a small man, with bright black eyes behind horn-rimmed glasses. He had a pointed nose, and in time thinning red hair and a trimmed grey mustache. He was dapper in a white collar, checked tie and a well-cut suit. He spoke some English, and excellent French. He was a great performer on the courtroom stage – "The real star of the theatrical show was Andrey Vyshinsky, whose performance of foaming ire and articulate pedantry would make him a European figure." He was described as brilliantly combining the humbug of a Victorian preacher and the diabolical curses of a witch doctor! He was proud and vain. He was notoriously unpleasant to his subordinates, being noted as a sinister figure, but was sickeningly subservient to his superiors, especially Stalin. He was proud of his notoriety; on a visit to London he wanted to be sure that when he met Princess Margaret, that she knew that he had been the presiding prosecutor at the "Show Trials." One description called him alert, vigorous, vain and intelligent. He also had eczema.

Vyshinsky served as prosecutor for the Division of Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of the USSR from 1923 to 1925, then prosecutor for the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic from 1931 to 1933. In 1933 he was appointed deputy public prosecutor of the USSR, then public prosecutor 1935 until 1939.

As early as 1928 he was co-prosecutor in the Shakhty Trial, in which 53 Soviet and foreign engineers were accused of blowing up the Donbass mines in the town of Shakhty, Rostov Region. Eleven of the defendants were condemned to death, five were shot.

In 1931 Vyshinsky became public prosecutor, and soon was notorious for the rancor and vindictiveness with which he conducted state trials. In the Metropolitan-Vickers Trial of 12-19 April 1933 eleven Soviet workers and six British electrical engineers were accused of sabotaging electrical power generating stations and conducting espionage. All Soviets and one Briton confessed. Sentences for the Soviets were from 18 months to ten years. One British engineer got three years, another two, three were deported and one was found innocent.

But Vyshinsky did have one reversal. In the summer of 1933 a report reached Vyacheslav M Molotov that a factory in Zaporozhye was producing defective combine harvester parts. The only possible cause was, of course, sabotage. Both Molotov and Stalin agreed that "since their system was perfect and their ideology scientifically correct, all industrial mistakes must be the result of sabotage by "wreckers." Molotov ordered that Procurator-General Akulov arrest all the guilty. But to Stalin's chagrin, the industrial workers were passionately defended. When the case came before the Supreme Court, the government case was represented by Vyshinsky, but with Stalin on holiday, Sergo Kaganovich persuaded the Politburo to condemn Vyshinsky's summing up. When Stalin discovered what had happened he was enraged, but allowed things to proceed, at least for the time being.

When Sergei Kirov, the very popular Leningrad Party leader, was murdered in Leningrad on 1 December 1934, Stalin speedily went there himself to begin the investigation. Of course he found the typical terrorist plot to disrupt the whole country. Stalin personally ordered Procurator-General Vyshinsky and Judge Vasily Ulrikh to sentence the perpetrators to death – quickly. So Stalin conveniently rid himself of another group of possible adversaries before any real evidence could be gathered.

Vyshinsky continued his work as public prosecutor for the years of the Great Purge. He was the prosecutor at the major "Show Trials," "lashing the defenseless victims with vituperative, sometimes cruelly witty rhetoric." Cowed by torture, sleeplessness, and threats to their families, they were in no position to answer with appropriate retorts.

In his closing arguments at the "First Show Trial" of 19-24 August 1936 Vyshinsky indicated that Kamenev, Zinoviev and Reingold had mentioned complicity by Tomsy, Bukharin, Rykov and others, setting the stage for subsequent trials. At the trial of Zinoviev he called the defendants "contemptible adventurers, trying with muddy feet to trample the sweet-smelling flowers in our socialist garden." Not only were the principals of the trials executed, but the families of Kamenev and Zinoviev were killed or exiled.

According to Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn it would be incorrect to ascribe to 1937 the "discovery" that the personal confession of an accused person was more important than any other kind of proof or facts. This concept had already been formulated in the twenties. But 1937 was the year when the brilliant teaching of Vyshinsky came into its own. Incidentally, even at that time, his teaching was transmitted only to interrogators and prosecutors – for the sake of their morale and steadfastness. The terrible tortures that many victims went through were on the basis of this theory. If the accused confessed, regardless of other circumstances, the case was proven, and perfectly legal!

Vyshinsky, after the lawless purges, emerged as Stalin's chief legal theorist to revive the concept of "socialist law" as a permanent legacy of the system. A strange concept for two of the greatest liars, who had just completed the unjust murders of hundreds, even thousands, of people! Vyshinsky was vice-premier of the USSR from 1939-1944. He was Academician of the Soviet

Academy of Sciences from 1939 onwards.

In 1940 Vyshinsky became active in foreign affairs, being the deputy Commissar of Foreign Affairs 1940-1949, with Molotov being the Commissar. In June 1940 he was sent to the Republic of Latvia to supervise the establishment of a puppet government, and to incorporate it into the USSR. In 1943 he was the Soviet representative on the Allied Mediterranean Commission. In 1945 he arranged for a Communist regime to control Romania, as part of the Soviet Empire which was being established in Eastern Europe. Vyshinsky was responsible for Soviet presentations at the trials of major German war criminals by the International Military Tribunal in Nuremburg.

On 24 May 1945 Stalin hosted a banquet for the Politburo, marshals, singers, and actors, held at the Georgevsky Hall in Moscow to celebrate the defeat of Germany. It was said that Stalin laughed as Alexander Poskrebyshv slipped the ceremonial dagger out of Vyshinsky's diplomatic uniform, and replaced it with a pickle. "Much to Stalin's amusement the pompous ex-Procurator strutted around for the rest of the day oblivious of the vegetable in his scabbard, and the smirks of the magnates."

Vyshinsky followed Molotov as the Foreign Minister 1949-1953. Molotov had been relieved of his position, possibly because of the bad publicity of the Berlin Blockade, in the spring of 1949. Vyshinsky was the Soviet representative to the United Nations from 1946 until his death. Here he often attacked Western policies with the same venom he had shown in the Soviet courts. On 18 September 1947 he complained, "It is becoming more and more evident to everyone that the implementation of the Marshall Plan will mean placing European countries under the economic and political control of the United States and direct interference by the latter in the internal affairs of those countries." This was a strange complaint coming from a country which at that very time was forcibly building up an empire in eastern Europe, doing exactly what Vyshinsky accused the United States of. After Stalin's death in 1953 Vyshinsky was demoted to first deputy foreign minister, but remained at the United Nations as the permanent Soviet representative.

Andrey Vyshinsky died 22 November 1954 in New York, New York and was buried near Red Square.

At no time do any of his biographers mention a wife or children.

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SOVIET SECRET POLICE

This is a brief outline of the organization of the Soviet secret police, including specific dates and listing of some of those responsible. Individual Mennonite stories may not always have the name exactly right for that time period. We have only sometimes corrected these errors. It is easy to understand that when people were faced by the terror of the rude pounding at the door at midnight, the exact name, be it GPU or NKVD or whatever, did not really matter.

CHEKA

Chrezvychaynaya Kommissiya (or Vecheka)
All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counter-Revolution and Sabotage
Established 7 December 1917, in operation until 1922
Also dealt with speculation and abuse of authority
Established concentration camps and internal security camps
It also censored the press
Headed by: Felix Dzerzhinsky 1917-1918
 Yakov Peters 1918
 Felix Dzerzhinsky 1918-1922

GPU

Gosudarstvennoye Politicheskoe Upravleniye
State Administration Soviet Security Service
Founded in 6 February 1922, replacing the Cheka
Its work was directed against the Church, private entrepreneurs, kulaks, the old intellectuals,
 and former members of opposition parties
Also concerned with conflict within the party
On 15 November 1923 its name was changed to OGPU
All-Union State Political Board
Headed by: Felix Dzerzhinsky 1923 - July 1926
 Vyacheslav Menzhinsky July 1926 - May 1934
On July 10 1934 OGPU became GUGB of the NKVD of the USSR

NKVD

Norodny Komitet Vnutennykh Del
People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
1934 to 1943 in charge of police and civil registry offices and the corrective labour camps
Mennonites in their letters abroad, hoping that their readers would catch on, but the censors
 not, sometimes referred to them as the "four letter" people - NKVD
One of Stalin's main tools during the Great Purge 1936-1938. The idea was Stalin's, the
 implementation was up to the NKVD
Created in an attempt to catch presumed enemies of the state. It was given power of arbitrary
 arrest and speedy trial and punishment.
Special "Troikas" were set up to enable them to speed up the process.
Regional district quotas for arrests were set by Stalin. Arrests were also on the basis of
 rumour, innuendo and false accusations by locals hoping thereby to save their own lives.

The first three heads of the NKVD were also executed

Genrikh Yagoda (1934-1936)

Nikolai Yezhov (1936-1939) - the “Dwarf” was responsible for millions of deaths at the height of the Great Purge. He was very efficient at providing Stalin with long lists of prisoners who needed to be executed

Lavrenti Beria (1939-1953) - he personally tortured many of his victims

In 1953 MVD and MGB merged into the MVD by action of Beria

Lavrenti Beria was arrested in June 1953, and executed in December 1953

He was caught in a power struggle after the death of Stalin in March 1953. It is ironic that the charges against him, that of being a foreign spy, were much the same as he had used to execute thousands of his own victims

On 13 March 1954 newly independent force became the KGB

KGB

Committee for State Security

Remained relatively stable until 1991

After the KGB failed to overthrow Gorbachev, and Yeltsin took over, General Vadim Bakatin was given instructions to dissolve the KGB

2008

KGB functions carried out by the SVR (Foreign Intelligence Service)
and the FSB (Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation)
and the GRU, the main intelligence directorate

The “opening” of past records must be treated with some suspicion. Many of the same officials are still in power

It is still frowned upon to even photograph the outsides of KGB buildings, so the age of fear of the secret police is not over

In December of 2008 the police raided the offices of a human rights agency which was collecting specific evidence of atrocities which had been carried out under the direction of Joseph Stalin. The police stole hard drives containing much of this evidence.

An Example

The purpose and function of the NKVD would make interesting, unbelievable fiction, if it had not been so deadly serious. And at the bottom of this behavior, sometimes indirectly, often directly, was Joseph Stalin himself.

Camp boss at Dalstroi, Magadan (in the Far East) was Eduard Berzin. He had been the direct subordinate of Genrikh Yagoda. But Nikolai Yezhov was now the head of the NKVD, having replaced Yagoda. In December 1937, a whole troop of new officials arrived at his camp. Berzin even greeted them with a brass band, although they ignored him. Joseph Stalin often introduced soon-to-be disgraced officials to their successors in this manner, but Berzin seems not to have caught on. He travelled by ship to Vladivostok, and there caught the Trans Siberian Express for Moscow, with a first class ticket. Just 70 km from Moscow the train ground to a halt, Berzin was arrested, and taken to the Lubyanka Prison. He was accused of “counter-revolutionary sabotage-wrecking activities.” He had been forming a spy-diversionist Trotskyist organization in Kolyma. Not only that, he was shipping gold to the Japanese government and plotting a Japanese takeover in the Far

East. He was, in addition, spying for England and Germany. He had obviously been very busy! He was found guilty and executed in August 1938.

But the matter did not end there. By the end of December 1937 most of Berzin's subordinates had been arrested. I G Filippov, boss at the nearby Sevvostlag camp, under torture, admitted to having recruited Berzin in 1934, and implicated most of his associates. They had formed an Anti-Soviet organization which planned to overthrow the government, inciting the local native population, and encouraging widespread wrecking. Berzin's chief deputy, Lev Epshtein, confessed to gathering secret intelligence for France and Japan, while carrying out sabotage, diversion and wrecking. The chief medical doctor at the Magadan polyclinic apparently had connections with alien elements and double dealers.

By the time the dust settled, hundreds of people who had been associated with Berzin, including bureaucrats, geologists and engineers, were dead or had been imprisoned. The fate of the elite at the Kolyma Gold Mines gives an excellent example of what happened to many people across the wide expanse of the Soviet Union.

NADEZHDA KONSTANINOVA KRUPSKAYA (1869-1939)

Nadezhda Konstantinova Krupskaya was born 14 February 1869 in St Petersburg, Russia. She was the daughter of a military officer who quite possibly had been suspected of being involved with revolutionaries. Nadezhda had well educated parents, and she had, through her family, direct experience with lower class working conditions. It was said that "From her very childhood Krupskaya was inspired with the spirit of protest against the ugly life around her." She was a tall, shy, quiet girl who moved and thought with deliberation. After attempting two other schools, she found her niche at the Prince A A Obolensky Female Gymnasium, a "distinguished private girls' secondary school in St Petersburg."

She joined a number of discussion groups; this eventually lead to her reading and being inspired by, the works of Karl Marx. While attending the Advanced Courses for Women in St Petersburg she joined a Marxist student group, and remained a dedicated Marxist for the rest of her life. From 1891 to 1896 she taught at an evening and weekend school for factory workers, located just outside the Neva Gate. Reading, writing and arithmetic were the official subjects, but Nadezhda used the opportunity to spread revolutionary propaganda among the workers. The school was closed down after five years when the workers went on strike. She is believed to have suffered from Graves' Disease, a condition of the thyroid gland which can cause bulging eyes and a large lump in the front of the neck. In females there can be disruption of the menstrual cycle, which may explain why she never had children.



Nadezhda Krupskaya

In 1894 Nadezhda met Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (later known as Lenin). In 1895 she helped organize the St Petersburg Union of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class. She was arrested in August of 1896, and managed to serve her exile at the place where Lenin had been banished to, Shushenskoe, Eniseisk Province. They were married in July 1898. One of the principal activities they shared was the translation of "The Theory and Practice of Trade Unionism," by Sidney Webb and Beatrice Webb from English to Russian.

When Nadezhda was released in 1901 she joined Lenin in Munich, Germany. From this time onward she was involved in the production of a number of revolutionary newspapers, such as *Pravda* and *Iskra*. She attended a number of important national and international conferences, and helped found socialist youth associations. After having lived in a number of European countries, Lenin and Nadezhda returned to Russia on 3 April 1917. She played an active, though background, part in the October Revolution of 1917. She considered her role to be that of taking care of the "routine" work, freeing Lenin for the "important" work.



Krupskaya and Lenin

After the establishment of the Bolshevik government, Nadeshda continued to be involved in a wide variety of committees, but tended to emphasize education. Together with two others she prepared the first directives on public education, including political education. In 1918 she was elected as a member of the Academy of Social Sciences. She was chairman of the Central Committee for Political Education in November 1920. Nadezhda taught in the Academy of Communist Upbringing and organized a number of volunteer societies including Down With Illiteracy and the Children's Friend. She felt that combating child neglect was very important, and that the work of children's homes was crucial. She edited many journals, most relating to education of both children and adults. Her work was recognized; she was awarded the Order of Lenin and the Order of the Red Banner of Labour.

Nadeshda stayed at Lenin's side, particularly when his health slowly began to fail after an assassination attempt in 1918, but especially after his initial stroke of May 1922. She was aware of the fact that Lenin was somewhat reluctant to acknowledge Joseph Stalin as the principal candidate for leadership, as shown by his testament of December 1922. This, understandably, brought her into some conflict with Stalin when he later became the undisputed dictator. Somewhat surprisingly Stalin never had her executed, though he did say, somewhat tongue in cheek, that if she did not obey him, the committee would appoint someone else to be Lenin's widow. While superficially humorous, it was a Bolshevik concept which under Stalin's rule was not entirely out of the question.

It is thought that her dedication to education and the betterment of the lives of women and children may have placed her above the political strife within the Communist Party, and allowed her to survive, even through the Stalin Purge.

Mennonites in Russia were undoubtedly affected by the work and policies of Nadezhda Krupskaya, particularly those who were in the teaching profession. When the Bolsheviks took over, her directives on public and political education were rapidly put into practice. Ministers of the Church were not allowed to teach, regardless of their qualifications. They had to choose between the Church and their profession. Most opted for the Church, lost their jobs, and were expelled from their homes. Even those teachers who were not ministers eventually had to declare that they did not believe in God. Those who persisted in their faith lost their jobs.

Then the surprise!

During the Stalin Purge 1936-1938, the year 1937 was especially brutal, with many men being arrested. Late that year, often in November or December, the families of some of the arrested men were also imprisoned as "wives and children of enemies of the people."

From the Molotschna the women were first imprisoned in Halbstadt, then sent off to Melitopol, where they were treated very harshly. The children ages 1-15 were sent to orphanages, specific institutions depending on the age of the child. It is mentioned in eight of the Molotschna villages that the women were released after several months, mostly in February 1938. They were allowed to go back and reclaim their own homes and in most instances were able to find their own children. In three of the villages the release of the women was attributed to the intervention of Nadezhda Krupskaya! In the report from Lindenau it was specifically mentioned that the women wrote to her from the prison in Melitopol – and soon were out.



Nadezhda Krupskaya

In Gruenfeld of the Schlachtin Colony at least 26 men were imprisoned from July to November 1937. On 16 November nine women were also arrested. Apparently through the action of Krupskaya at the Communist Party Congress, these women were released three months later, early in 1938. The congress referred to was likely the first meeting of the Supreme Soviet Congress, held on 12 January 1938.

In Blumenort, Molotschna, after most of the men were gone by 1938, authorities started to arrest wives and sisters, with children taken care of by grandparents or orphanages in Halbstadt, Prischib or Tokmak. Women were taken to Halbstadt, then Melitopol prisons. With help of Krupskaya the women were eventually released.

The Stalin Constitution of 1936 granted Soviet Union citizens various rights, all of course subject to the Communist Party and Joseph Stalin's personal whims. In theory there was the right to education, medical service and equal rights for men and women. It is quite possible that Krupskaya was able to implement some reforms regarding women in this first congress held after acceptance of the constitution.

It is difficult to be certain that the instances mentioned were actually due to the intervention of Krupskaya, although it certainly would be consistent with her interests involving women and particularly children, "combating child neglect." She was 68 years old by then and possibly not in the best of health. She did not seem to be on the best terms with Stalin, who likely would have had to confirm the releases. But perhaps her connection with Lenin, her stature within the Communist Party and her obvious influence in that field did have some weight. It is possible.

Nadezhda Konstantinovka Krupskaya, widow of Lenin, died 27 February 1939, and was buried in Red Square, near the wall of the Kremlin. She probably died of natural causes, but according to some sources her death followed the eating of a birthday cake sent to her by Joseph Stalin. As mentioned, he was not one of her admirers. Poisoning in those circles was not uncommon. It is interesting to speculate as to what one would do with a birthday cake sent by Stalin. To eat might be fatal; not to eat might be equally fatal!

The asteroid 2071 Nadezhda, discovered in 1971 by Soviet astronomer Tamara Mikhailovna Smirnova, was named in her honour.

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THE PRELUDE TO ARREST

There were about 100,000 Mennonites in the Soviet Union when Joseph Stalin announced his First Five Year Plan. With forcible implementation of collectivization of the countryside and rapid industrialization Stalin aimed to create the first modern socialist state. To begin this process Stalin proclaimed "liquidation of kulaks as a class" in December 1929. This would remove the people from the scene who potentially might resist collectivization. Government directives called for dekulakization of 3-5% of all peasant households. As a matter of fact it was often a higher percentage even in Russian and Ukrainian villages, but was up to 25% in some Mennonite settlements. The Mennonites tended to be the better farmers, therefore often more wealthy, and besides they were of German heritage, and they were a religious group. The ministers among them were also definite targets for dekulakization.

Families selected for dekulakization usually went through these stages:

1. Inflated grain quotas, regardless of crops
2. Inflated taxes, ever increasing
3. Those who could not pay were disenfranchised (usually the entire family)
 - deprived of the right to vote
 - could not buy in stores, if, then at twice the usual price
 - children could not go to school
4. Dispossessed of property, livestock, machinery, household possessions
5. Evicted from their homes, which became part of the collective, or were given to poorer people in the community
 - some were allowed to stay in the village, living with family or friends, or in make-shift hovels in the outskirts of the village
 - others were banished from the village, but were allowed to stay in the region, with family or friends in another village or in newly established kulak settlements such as Oktoberfeld and Neuhof in the Molotschna region
 - some chose to flee from the village before they could be exiled, often to large industrial cities such as Zaporozhye, or Stalino (now Donetsk) or to the Caucasus region
 - most were loaded onto crowded unheated cattle cars and shipped to the forests of northern Russia, Siberia or the barren steppes of central Asia. Many died en route, while many who survived the trip died within the first year of cold, disease or starvation
6. Even those who had been evicted from their homes or banished were subject to further arrest and imprisonment/execution during the Great Purge, as a matter of fact previous banishment or imprisonment increased the chances. It will be noted that many of those listed in this book were first dekulakized, may even have returned to their homes, then were arrested again in 1937.

Specific numbers are hard to determine, but a reasonable estimate is that 20,000 to 25,000 Mennonites were dekulakized 1929 to 1932.

ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT

It seems that even in the smaller and less important communities the procedures and techniques of arrest and imprisonment were standardized all across Russia

Arrests were made mainly at night, although it could be at any time of the day; the first indication of trouble could be the presence of a big black car in the village (the “Black Maria” or “Black Raven”)

Then there was loud pounding on the door around midnight, often by two or three burly secret policemen, using their rifle butts

The police were sometimes accompanied by civilians, even friends of the accused, to act as “witnesses.” Often the police were rude, but occasionally they were quite polite

The home of the victim was usually searched thoroughly, looking for any evidence of being an “enemy of the people.” Religious books, especially Bibles, were evidence; any letters or communication from the outside world were definite evidence of a “foreign spy plot.” The search could last a number of hours.

When asked, the police often implied that the victim would soon be back, possibly within hours

The police sometimes allowed the family to prepare packages of food and clean underwear

On occasion the victims and their families were allowed to say a sorrowful farewell, even to pray. Other times no farewells were permitted

By 1937 the victim and his family most often realized that this might well represent a final parting

Then it was off to the local jail. Sometimes the relatives could visit for a few weeks or months after the arrest. The victim usually looked pale and thin, sometimes bruised

After imprisonment it was up to the prison officials to obtain a confession from the victim. Through repeated and lengthy disturbing the night rest by interrogations, through prolonged standing in the corner of a room on an uneven surface, through steady terrible threats, through repeated blows with fists and kicks, through jamming the fingertips into door hinges, through intermittent heat and cold in the cell, through ramming needles under the fingernails

Almost inevitably the visits stopped after a number of weeks or months because the prisoner had been “sent elsewhere.” It was implied that the victim had been sent into exile. Much later it was discovered that a significant number had actually been executed

Direct physical torture was often applied by beating the victim with a felt boot filled with heavy objects; they were beaten until they broke down, virtually unconscious, just as long as they signed the confession. Confessions, the authorities felt, would then give them the “legal” right to mete out sentences “in accordance with the law.” Actual torture was more frequently applied after mid 1937, and decreased after 1939

Then the victims were condemned, sometimes after an actual court appearance, often by a specially appointed Troika, also at the whim of NKVD prison authorities. In some of the court appearances there were witnesses to substantiate the totally fabricated charges. In the Sagradovka region these false witnesses were paid 125 rubles “per head”

The Troika usually consisted of three men; the regional NKVD Chief, the Chief Party Secretary of the province and a representative of the prosecutor's office or the local government.

The Troika was used to speed up the legal process, both with the initial sentencing and also within the concentration camps. It had the right to pass sentence on a prisoner even in absentia, without a judge, jury or trial

Sentencing followed; Category 1 victims were executed, usually quite expeditiously, one bullet to the back of the head. Category 2 victims were sent to prison or into exile. In 1937 the length of sentences increased; previously 5-year terms were now increased to 10 years, 10 years to 20. It was known that very few people would survive 20 years, so it was virtually a death sentence.

It appeared to be a blessing to be sentenced in 1936. Those who were sentenced on or before 31 December 1936 were able to write and receive letters as well as packages. Those sentenced in 1937 could not. More severe and almost inevitable torturing began in mid-1937.

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Similar accounts are included in many of the individual stories of victims of the Great Purge

THE GULAG

The word GULAG is an acronym, from *Glavnoe Upravlenie Lagerei*, which literally means “Main Camp Administration.” In time it came to mean the whole system of slave labour camps across the whole Soviet Union -- labour camps, punishment camps, criminal camps, political camps and transit camps. Eventually it even meant the whole Soviet repressive system, including arrests, interrogation, torture and beatings, transport in unheated cattle cars, forced labour under unbearable circumstances, frequent early deaths by starvation or simply execution. It was nicknamed “the meat grinder.”

Forced labour camps existed in Czarist Russia, in distant parts of Siberia, from the seventeenth into the twentieth centuries. Very soon after the Russian Revolution these camps were integrated into the Soviet system. Mass terror against real and alleged opponents was part of the Revolution from the very beginning. As early as the summer of 1918 Lenin needed a place to lock up undesirable elements. In 1921 there were 84 concentration camps in 43 provinces. They were mostly designed to “rehabilitate” enemies of the people.

One of the first camps to develop was Solovetsky Island on the White Sea. Beginning in 1920 a whole system of camps was built on various islands in the region. Churches and monasteries were converted into primitive prisons. Separate camps sprang up in the forests close to where the work was done.. Hygienic conditions were poor; there was overwork and poor food. Inside the cells the bedbugs, and outside the mosquitos, made life unbearable. In 1925 there were 6,000 prisoners in Solovetsky, of which about one quarter died of a typhus epidemic that year. Naftaly Aronovich began as a prisoner, then worked his way up, eventually becoming the camp director. He popularized the concept of feeding prisoners according to the work they did. This destroyed the weaker workers who were not able to achieve the quotas, and within weeks caused uncounted deaths from overwork and starvation. Later Aronovich took over the management of the White Sea Canal project.

In the late 1920s the purposes of the concentration camps were debated; the answers were not uniform. Initially the motive was to “re-educate” prisoners. This meant that they were to have a change in orientation, and that at least some were to return to society as model citizens. Another objective was to punish prisoners, presumably for wrongdoing, real or imagined. Very often the main concern, however, was to make a profit for the regime. Many camps were involved in all kinds of industries, actually comprising massive industrial empires. Producing lumber, mining, farming, building power plants and digging canals were among the enterprises. At one point one third of the country’s gold, much of its coal and timber and a “great deal of almost everything else” came from prison camps.



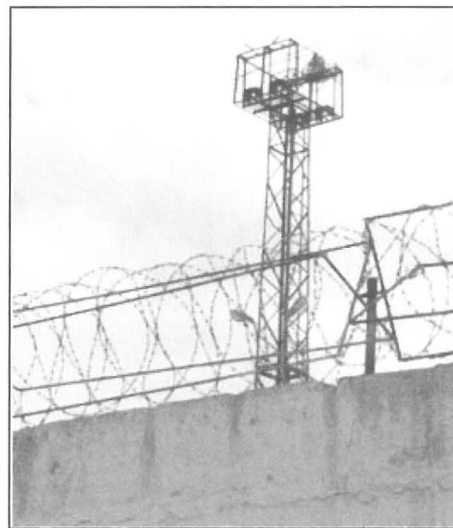
Watchtower of the concentration camp
at Karabas

Gradually also, the general principle was applied, that it did not matter what you had done, but who you were. True, some criminals were arrested, but the vast number of prisoners were there for other reasons. Ethnic minorities such as German or Baltic citizens, the intelligentsia, the wealthy including kulaks, and religious groups were targeted. But there was also an across-the-board quota system for each region -- a certain number from that region for execution, an equally arbitrary number for exile, regardless of reason. There was sometimes a disconnect between what the camps wanted for their industries, and the number of people Stalin wanted arrested because they were "enemies of the people." Usually Stalin's victims greatly outnumbered the bunks available in the camps, leading to constant overcrowding.

In 1929 there were fundamental changes in the function of the Gulag. The secret police were given the management of all camps, removing the camps from the judicial process, such as it was. The specific role of the police was simplified. Their job was no longer to discover crimes, but to "be on hand when the government decided to arrest a certain segment of the population." Stalin also decided to use forced labour to speed up the Soviet Union's industrialization. Conditions in the camps varied tremendously, but never improved for humane reasons. At times it made economic sense to have reasonably healthy and well-fed prisoners, not to make them happy, but to get more work out of them.

The Gulag had its own laws, customs, morality, and even its own slang. The Gulag left its own stamp on all who had been involved, definitely the prisoners, but also the guards. It was said that even years after being released, former inmates could recognize such people on the street, simply "from the look in their eyes."

It is estimated that at least 18,000,000 (18 million) prisoners passed through the Gulag from 1929-1953, up to 2 million at a time. There were 476 major concentration camp complexes, some



Wall of Prison "16" in Karaganda



Labour Camp Slavnoye, near Arkhangelsk

with many thousands of prisoners, in a wide variety of camps. They were spread right across the Soviet Union, in all twelve time zones. Another 6,000,000 people were sent into exile or deported to Kazakhstan deserts, or northern Siberian forests, without actually being in the camps. Additional millions were arrested, but never made it into exile. They were often shot right near their homes, or soon thereafter in the local prisons. To some people it became apparent that those executed immediately may have been the

fortunate ones; they did not have to bear the almost inevitable torture nor the years of slowly dying of starvation and overwork.

After Stalin's death many of the camps were slowly dismantled, especially in the 1970s and 1980s. Mikhail Gorbachev, whose grandparents had been Gulag prisoners, dissolved the last camps in 1987.

But the story is not yet complete. The Russian government is determined to whitewash the past, and make the most depraved killer of history into a saint. A human rights group, Memorial, with offices in St Petersburg, has been gathering evidence of Stalin's brutality, and that of his secret police and of the Gulag. On 4 December of 2008 the offices of this agency were raided by the Russian police and material was taken which included scans of "diagrams scrawled out by survivors which detailed layouts of labour camps. There were photographs of people executed by Stalin's secret police, wrenching accounts of survival from Gulag inmates and maps showing the locations of mass graves."

Nothing has changed. The same people are still in charge!

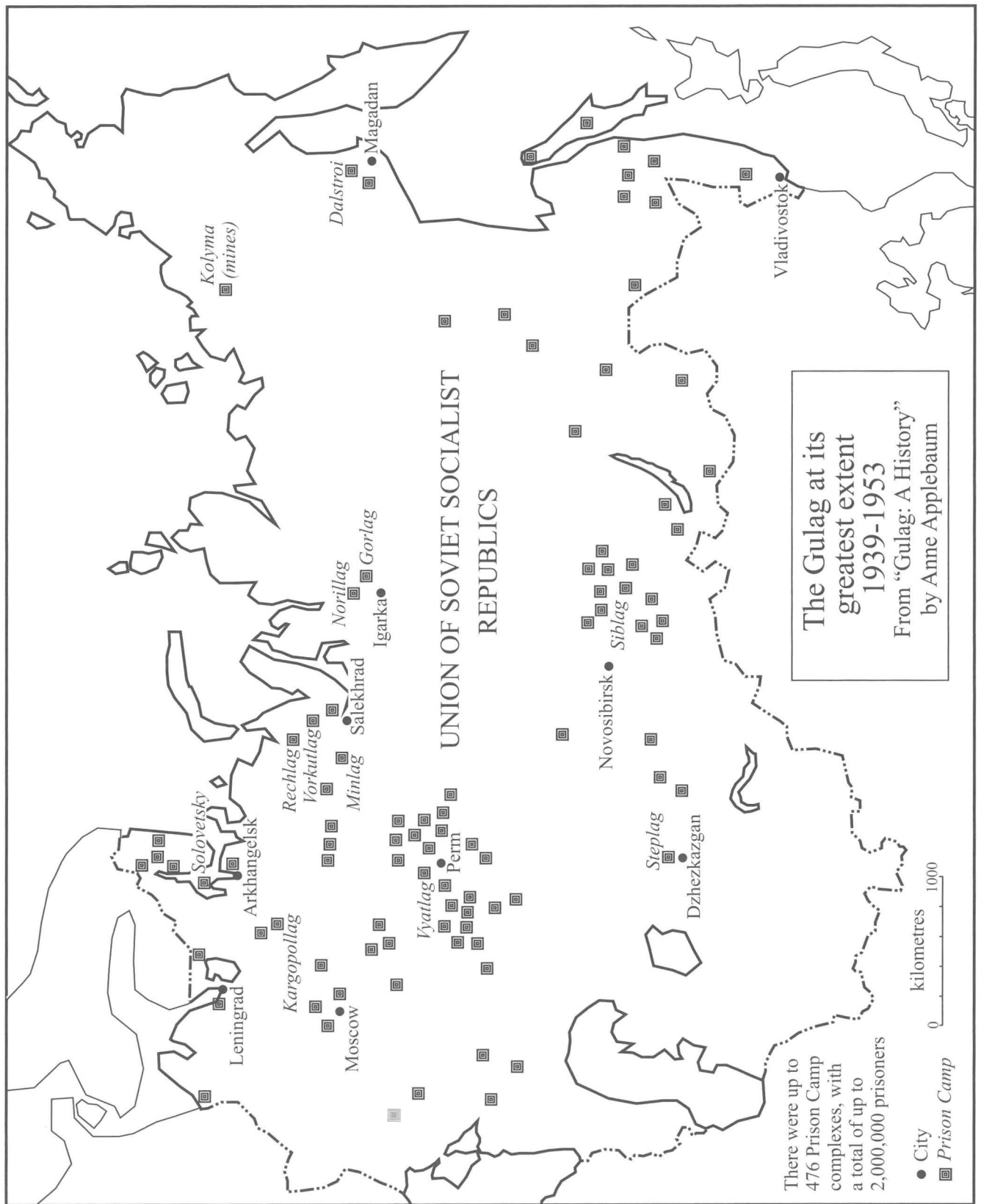
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Personal information from many of the people studied for this book



Victims of the Purge

The Great Purge 1936-1938

Mennonite Districts and
Villages

List of Individual Mennonites
Imprisoned/Exiled/Executed
in 1937

Brief Biographies

THE GREAT PURGE 1936 -1939 **(also called THE GREAT TERROR)**

The Great Purge was largely the brainchild of Joseph Stalin. As he became more and more the virtual unopposed dictator of the Soviet Union, he used the NKVD to implement his every wish, which in this case was to liquidate all his real and imagined enemies. Eventually the Great Purge, engineered by Stalin, and implemented by whoever was the head of the NKVD, involved:

The Military - between 1936 and 1941 a third of all Red Army officers were arrested, three of the five marshals and 14 of the 16 army commanders. All were executed.

The Communist Party - of the 1,966 delegates at the Party Congress in 1934, eventually 1,108 were arrested over the next five years. This way Stalin rid himself of any of the older members who could potentially oppose his policies. He even executed those who had helped him in his rise to power. The widely publicized "Show Trials" were mostly in this category.

Kulaks, the intelligentsia, anyone who might be suspicious to someone, but especially **racial minority groups, religious groups**, or anyone with **outside connections**. Eventually this was by far the largest group, millions of people

The NKVD - especially, but not only those who had been appointed by Yezhov's predecessors
Personal vendetta - people with a personal jealousy could target and remove somebody

The excitement of increasing numbers of arrests and executions spread down the Party hierarchy and out into the public. It was organized from the top by Joseph Stalin himself, to eliminate his enemies, create a new layer of loyal bureaucrats, but then also to terrorize the entire Soviet population, and to fill the concentration camps. Starting in 1937, Stalin signed orders which were sent to the regional NKVD bosses listing quotas of people to be arrested in the various regions. Those arrested were in two divisions. "First Category" punishment was death. "Second Category" punishment was confinement in prison camp. The most vicious of the Second Category were put into special political prisons. Some felt that quotas were higher in regions where the greatest concentration of "enemies" lived.

NKVD headquarters in Moscow expected their chiefs in the various areas to be so enthusiastic that they would request increases in their quotas! The Armenian NKVD asked for an increase in their quota in September 1937; the Ukraine was allowed an additional 30,000 arrests, especially the "kulaks and other anti-Soviet elements" in February of 1938.

The actual numbers involved are controversial. One estimate is that between January 1935 and June 1941 about **19,800,000** people were arrested by the NKVD, of whom **7,000,000** were executed, many after horrifying torture.

In some ways the NKVD procedures were at least unbiased. They had a quota for each region, and just went down the list. If they needed 1,000 more executions, they simply consulted the list, and arrested the next allotment using whatever pretext could be fabricated for the individuals.

A time line proposed for the Great Purge of 1936-1939 is as follows:

1. October 1936-February 1937

Reforming the security organization, adopting official plans for purging the elite

2. March 1937- June 1937

Purging the "elites," adopting plans for the mass repression against the social base of

potential aggressors.

3. July 1937-October 1938

Mass repressions against kulaks, dangerous ethnic minorities, family members of opposition, military officers, saboteurs in agriculture and industry

It should be noted that the arrests of many of the Mennonites fitted into this category, both from the point of view of the timing and the specific accusations

4. November 1938-1939

Stopping of mass operations, abolishing many of the organs of extrajudicial executions

It became apparent even to Stalin at this point that he was bleeding the country to death

It should be realized that some historians limit the term "Great Purge" to the top echelon of the Communist Party, the military and the NKVD. It is more realistic to consider the purging in the overall sense. The real story is the purging of millions of ordinary citizens, for exactly the same reasons, with the same methods and the same perpetrators as the few hundreds considered in the narrow sense. The term was not used by the Soviets, it was later applied by those describing the events. The real events occurred across the whole country!

VICTIMS OF THE PURGE

MENNONITE DISTRICTS AND VILLAGES

Adelsheim, Yazykovo - 15 men arrested in 1937; two returned, Jakob Thiessen in 1939, Heinrich Rempel in 1952

So: Letkemann Notes

Alexanderfeld, Sagra dovka - 28 listed as arrested in 1937

Altogether 1936-1938, 51 arrested, 48 men, 3 women; called "Enemies of the People"
9 survived the prison/exile and returned, some after a few months, others after many years

Arrest ratio 8.5%

Identified as informer - Johann Wiebe

Another source: men arrested 1936 - 6, 1937 - 30, 1938 - 15

So: Letkemann Notes

Alexanderkrone, Sagra dovka - 2 men arrested in 1938

Alexanderthal, Molotschna - 51 men were arrested during the Great Purge; at least 14 in 1937

So: *MHA* p 126; Letkemann Notes

Altona, Molotschna - 19 men arrested in 1937

So: Letkemann Notes

Altona, Sagra dovka - 19 men arrested in 1937, 11 in 1938

So: Letkemann Notes

Bahndorf, Memrik - 24 arrests, began 6 May, until 30 June 1937

So: Letkemann Notes

Blumendfeld, Nepluyevka - 28 men arrested in 1937

September - 4

2 October - 9

9 October - 8

December - 7

They were accused of poisoning the horses, destroying the machinery, burning the grain, planning to blow up bridges

They were tortured in attempts to extract confessions by beating them, clamping their fingertips, forcing them to stand in cold water

Another 8 men were arrested in 1938

So: Letkemann Notes

Blumengart, Chortitza - 7 men arrested in 1937, five on 5 September

14-16 men arrested 1938

So: Letkemann Notes

Blumenhof, Borozenko - 1 man arrested in 1936, 3 in 1937, 4 in 1938; none returned

So: Letkemann Notes

Blumenort, Molotschna - after most of the men were gone by 1938, authorities started to arrest wives and sisters, with children taken care of by grandparents or in orphanages in Halbstadt, Prischib or Tokmak. Women taken to Halbstadt, then Melitopol. With help

of Krupskaya the women were eventually released

Blumenort, Sagradovka - 2 men arrested in 1937, 8 in 1938, 1 in 1939

So: Letkemann Notes

Burwalde, Chortitza - 8 men arrested 1937, maybe 9

18 men arrested the night of 18 February 1938, imprisoned in Zaporozhye, 9 were released January/February 1939

So: Letkemann Notes

Caucasus Region, Piatogorsk - 32 men arrested end of November 1937. False witnesses and lies were used, some were forced to give false witness

4 condemned to death, later reduced to exile. Those condemned witnessed to their faith. They were Heinrich T Janz, Isaak Poetker, Johann Koop, Nikolai Reimer

The other 28 condemned to 3-8 years in exile

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 292-294

Chortitza Colony - the Great Purge, while most brutal throughout the country in 1937, arrived with full force somewhat later in this area. Arrested in 1937 were 284 men, while in 1938 it was 421

Chortitza, Chortitza - 1937 - 122 men arrested, mainly after September

- 1938 - 138 men arrested, in the first months

- in some households 2 or 3 men arrested

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 277

Another source 1936 - 15 men arrested, 3 returned

1937 - 126 men arrested, 2 returned

at least 10 men were arrested 15 December

1938 - 140 men arrested, 6 returned

1939 - 1 man arrested

12.7% arrest ratio for 1936-1938, double the rate for most areas

So: Letkemann Notes

Ebenfeld, Borozenko - 1 man arrested in 1936, 2 in 1937, 2 in 1938

So: Letkemann Notes

Einlage, Chortitza - over 200 people arrested 1936-1938, many in 1937

24 men arrested in one night. Their wives lay down on the road in front of the trucks, screaming. Some men over 70 years of age were arrested

So: *Einlage 1789-1943* by Heinrich Bergen p 351

Another source: (numbers vary considerably)

1936 - 25 men arrested

1937 - 80 men arrested

1938 - 112 men arrested

There were informers in the village, including Mennonites

Bernhard Dyck - "he had much on his conscience" arrested and executed by Rumanian troops in 1941

Gerhard Heide - Communist activist who worked for the police, was feared in the village, may have changed his mind when he actually dealt with NKVD interrogators

Heinrich Winter - feared in the village, executed by the Germans, actually caught trying to cut communication wires
Brothers Wilhelm, David and Johann Koslowsky
Wilhelm prepared a list for the NKVD of the people who still prayed. On the basis of this list some people were arrested the night prior to the German occupation
Johann denounced his own brother Jakob
Abram Braun - committed suicide in prison before he could be executed
Isaak Reimer - cooperated with the Communists and denounced many villagers, then when the Germans occupied the region he adapted to them and became mayor of Einlage. Not highly regarded

So: Letkemann Notes

Elisabethtal, Molotschna - at least 11 men arrested in 1937, also 3 women with their children
The mothers with their children were released in February 1938

So: Letkemann Notes

Felsenbach, Borozenko - 1 arrested in 1935, 9 in 1937, 21 in 1938

So: Letkemann Notes

Franzfeld, Yazykovo - 24 men arrested 1936 -1938

Friedensdorf, Molotschna - 30 men arrested 1937-1938; only 1 woman arrested, Luise Krueger

So: Letkemann Notes

Friedensfeld, Ekaterinoslav Province - altogether 28 men arrested in 1937, another 10 in 1938.

This represented almost all of the able-bodied men of the village

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp121-123; Harry Loewen, personal family information

Friedensfeld, Sagradovka - 3 arrested in 1936, 18 arrested in 1937, 7 arrested in 1938; arrest ratio 1936-38, 4.4%

Arrested in 1937 Peter Voth and David Geddert

So: Letkemann Notes

Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna - 44 men arrested 1937-1938, exact dates known for only a few
Some specific dates were 5 September, 7 September, mid-November, 1937

So: Letkemann Notes

Gnadenfeld, Molotschna - one source mentions 58 arrested 1937-1938

Another source reports 82 arrests 1937-1938, 9.2% of the population of 880

Of those 82, 15 had been arrested earlier

9 men arrested 1937-1938 were released and returned to Gnadenfeld. They were arrested again in 1941

So: *MHA* p 127; Letkemann Notes

Gnadenfeld, Sagradovka - 1 arrested in 1936, 5 arrested in 1937, 2 in 1938

Gnadenheim, Molotschna - 28 men from Gnadenheim arrested 1937-1938, 23 in Gnadenheim, 5 arrested elsewhere

So: Letkemann Notes

Gnadental, Baratov - 4 men arrested in 1937, 41 (43?) in 1938

Lists of Johann Epp, Rayonchef, Jacob Mantler, Kaethe Koslowsky

So: Letkemann Notes

Grossweide, Molotschna - 25 men arrested 1937-1938

4 women arrested 20 October 1937

The 4 women and most of their children later returned

So: Letkemann Notes

Gruenfeld, Schlachtin - 1936, 4 arrested

- 1937, 26 men and 10 women arrested

- 1938, 70 men arrested

Another source - 39 arrested in 1937, 76 arrested in 1938

Another source - 4 July, Jakob Johann Nickel arrested

(1937) - 4 September, Jakob Wilhelm Penner arrested

- 5 September, 10 men arrested (families of nine of them were arrested in November)

- 10 September, 5 men and Sonja Hammer arrested

She was released after 9 years

Johann Warkentin was later released

- 15 September, Heinrich Neufeld, *Buergermeister*, arrested

- 1 November, 8 men arrested, including brothers Jakob and Isaak Froese

- 16 November, 9 women arrested, released after 3 months, early in 1938, through the intervention of Krupskaya at the 1938 Communist Party Congress

All of their husbands had been arrested earlier, most in September 1937. Children had been taken to orphanages

So: Letkemann Notes

Hierschau, Molotschna - 11 men arrested during the Great Purge, at least 3 in 1937

So: *Hierschau* p 310; *MHA* p 128

Hochfeld, Yazykovo - 6 arrested in 1936, 10 in 1937

So: Letkemann Notes

Kalinovo, Memrik Colony - many men arrested in 1937, never heard from again

It was more difficult for the families because they were disenfranchised

Among those arrested was Heinrich Epp

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 427

Karlovka, Memrik Colony - the night of 23 December 1937 virtually all men of the village were arrested (only 4 were left in 1941)

Among those arrested was a Mr Neufeld

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 426

Kleefeld, Molotschna - 9 men arrested on 30 October 1937

Many more men were arrested 1937-1938

Many men were taken to the Neukirch Church (converted to a club) and presumably arrested there

The next day 4 wives with children were arrested. They were later released

So: Letkemann Notes

Klippenfeld, Molotschna - relatively few men arrested during the Great Purge, 5 men in 1937

So: Letkemann Notes

Kondratyevka, Borissovo - 1937-1938 total of 74 men arrested, often fathers and sons
 So: Letkemann Notes

Kuban, Caucasus - at first the place where many Mennonites fled to, to escape exile,
 but later, 1937-1938, many were arrested in the Kuban as well
 So: *MHA* p 119

Leonidovka, Ignatyev - at least 2 men arrested December 1937
 So: Letkemann Notes

Liebenau, Molotschna - 18 men arrested in 1937
 So: Letkemann Notes

Lindenau, Molotschna - 14 men arrested 1937-1938, most in 1937, a number of women were
 also arrested in 1937, including Emilie Warkentin; she was released in 1938,
 possibly through the appeal to Krupskaya
 So: Letkemann Notes

Kronstal, Chortitza - Arrests 1934 - 1 (1 returned), 1937 - 3 (1 returned), 1938 - 11 (0 returned)
 1941 - 4 (none returned)
 So: Letkemann Notes

Mariawohl, Molotschna - 1937-1938 there were 28 arrests
 So: *Molotschna Dorfkarten*

Memrik Colony - 1937-1938, a total of 240 men were exiled, few of whom were ever heard
 from again
 So: *MHA* p 124

Miloradovka, Alexandrovka Volost - 1 man arrested in 1935, 2 in 1937, 9 in 1938
 So: Letkemann Notes

Molotschna Colony - 1936-1938 at least 1,500 men were imprisoned, many never to
 be seen again
 So: *MHA* p 125

Neuhaltstadt, Sagradovka - 17 arrested in 1937, 6 in 1938
 Peter Boldt and Otto Hein were informers in the village, said to have received 120 rubles
 per arrest
 So: Letkemann Notes

Neuenburg, Chortitza - 3 arrested in 1937, 1 died in Zaporozhye prison, 2 disappeared
 So: Letkemann Notes

Neuendorf, Chortitza - Arrests 1936 -1, 1937 - 15, 1938 - 41, 1940 - 4
 So: Letkemann Notes

Neuheim, Molotschna - 1937-1938 not a single person arrested
 So: *Molotschna Dorfkarten*

Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka - 16 arrested in 1937, 17 in 1938, 3 in 1939
 So: Letkemann Notes

New York, Ignatyev - 1937-1938 there were 56 men arrested
 1938 all the German teachers of the *Zentralschule* (11) were among the last to be
 arrested, and were replaced by Russian teachers. School program changed from
 German to Russian language
 So: Letkemann Notes

Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza - Arrests 1936 - 3, 1937 - 11, 1938 - 51, 1939 - 1
 So: Letkemann Notes

Nikolaifeld, Sagradovka - 8 men arrested in 1937, 11 in 1938
 G Thiessen wrote that there may have been fewer arrests than other villages because there were fewer "GPU elements" in the village
 So: Letkemann Notes

Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo - 24 men arrested in 1937, 1 in 1938
 So: Letkemann Notes

Nikolaital, Borozenko - 3 arrested in 1936, 2 in 1937, 21 in 1938
 Another source says 17 arrested in 1937
 So: Letkemann Notes

Omsk Region Mennonite Churches - disintegration of church function in the region because of the Great Purge of 1937
 So: *MHA* p 131

Orloff, Sagradovka - 11 men arrested in 1936, 19 in 1937, 12 in 1938
 Of the 19 arrested in 1937, 14 were Mennonites, 5 were other Germans
 According to Dietrich Wiebe of Orloff, NKVD collaborators in the village included Johann Hein and Dietrich Riediger. Both were executed by the German Army in 1941
 So: Letkemann Notes

Petershagen, Molotschna - 4 men arrested in 1937

Reinfeld, Sagradovka - 16 men arrested in 1937
 2 arrested in 1930 returned, then were re-arrested in 1937
 1 man arrested in 1937 returned, then was re-arrested in 1941
 2 women arrested in 1937, but returned
 Another source: 2 arrested in 1936, 18 arrested in 1937, none in 1938
 So: Letkemann Notes

Rosengart, Chortitza - Arrests 1937 - 7, 1938 - 3
 So: Letkemann Notes

Rosenort, Molotschna - at least 2 men arrested in 1937
 So: Letkemann Notes

Rosenort, Sagradovka - 1 arrested in 1937
 So: Letkemann Notes

Rudnerweide, Molotschna - 30 people arrested in 1937, 26 shot, the other 4 likely shot
 In 1936 the population was about 500, of which 44 were arrested in 1937-1938, 8.8%
 Among those arrested were 5 Friesen brothers and 2 of their brothers-in-law
 So: Letkemann Notes; *Memories from My Life* by Heinrich J Friesen

Sagradovka Colony - usually arrested people were taken at night to Kronau, then to Kherson for court appearances; sometimes their accusers actually appearing in court to testify against them; the *Kopfgeld*, "Head-tax" paid to informers varied from 25 to 100 rubles per person. Many of the informers were shot when the German Army occupied the region
 Some of those arrested were also sentenced without actual court appearance.
 Arrested in the whole colony: 346 people; not known how many returned

1936 - 29 men
1937 - 179 men, 2 women
1938 - 117 men, 13 women
1939 - 5 men, 1 woman

Another source: many of those arrested in the Sagradovka Colony were first transported to Kronau. Listed as arrested/exiled in Kronau were

1936 - 13
1937 - 226
1938 - 63
1939 - 3

So: Letkemann Notes

Schoenau, Molotschna - 11 men arrested 1937-1938

So: Letkemann Notes

Schoenau, Sagradovka - unusual in that only 4 men arrested in 1937, but 28 in 1938

So: Letkemann Notes

Schoendorf, Borozenko - 3 men arrested in 1936, 1 in 1937, 8 in 1938

So: Letkemann Notes

Schoeneberg, Chortitza - 17 men arrested the night of 29 October 1937, including Abram Rempel, Heinrich Froese, Johann Froese, Abram Ens and Jakob Wiebe. All exiled

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 258-261; Froese and Ens Family records

Another source says that most of the men were shot soon after their arrest

Another source - arrested 1936 - 6, 1937 - 20, 1938 - 16

So: Letkemann Notes

Schoenhorst, Chortitza - arrested 1936 - 7, 1937 - 9, 1938 - 18

2 teachers were among those arrested in 1937

Altogether 3 returned in 1939

So: Letkemann Notes

Schoensee, Molotschna - 25 men arrested 11 November 1937, then in December 2 groups of 3-4 people each were also arrested; total about 34

In May 1938 most of the rest were arrested

So: Letkemann Notes

Sparrau, Molotschna - 14 men arrested in 1937, of whom 7 were shot and 1 returned

In 1938 25 men were arrested, of which 23 were shot

The village was prosperous until 1937, when the repression started, with many being branded as "enemies of the people." When the homes were searched nothing was found except for one Bible

So: Letkemann Notes

Steinau, Nepluyevka - 10 men were arrested in the summer of 1937, in groups of 3 or 4,

- 17 men were arrested 12 December 1937. With provisions for 3 days and underwear for 2 days, they were to come before a military conscription committee in Nikolpol. They were to appear at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, were then transported by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, the Steinau *kolkhoz* chairman. They were taken to the NKVD offices in Nikolpol and were arrested. Their wives could visit

once or twice, then they were transferred to Dnepropetrovsk and never heard from again. Presumed shot.

- Daniel Krause, who had taken the men to Nikopol, was also “detained,” making the total for Steinau 28

So: Letkemann Notes

Steinfeld, Schlachtin - 5 men arrested in 1936, 13 arrested in 1937, mostly in the autumn, 38 arrested in 1938, most between 21 June and 21 July

So: Letkemann Notes

Steinfeld, Molotschna - 9 men arrested 1937-1938; 2 former residents arrested in the Caucasus

So: Letkemann Notes

Steinfeld, Sagradovka - 3 arrested in 1937, 7 in 1938

So: Letkemann Notes

Tchongrav, Crimea

The night of 30 January 1930 a total of 17 men were arrested; most never returned

Among them were Nikolai Huebert, Peter Heinrichs and Abraham Janzen (who never returned), and Jakob Janzen, David Janzen, Franz Klassen, Gerhard Toews and Heinrich Huebert (who did return)

So: Personal report, Mary Klassen, Winnipeg

Tiege, Sagradovka - 2 arrested in 1936, 24 in 1937, 6 in 1938, 1 in 1939

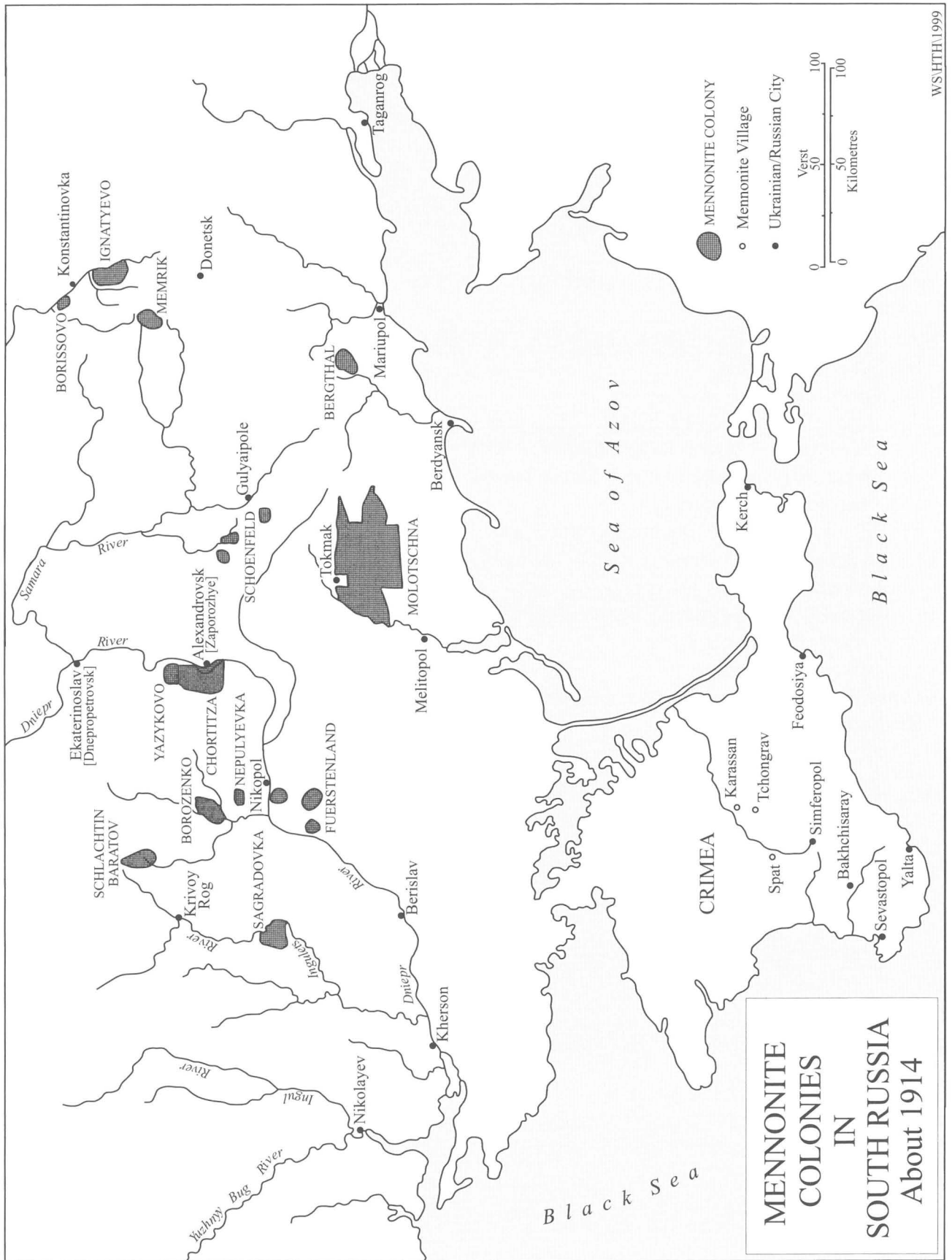
So: Letkemann Notes

Wernersdorf, Molotschna - 37 men arrested 1937-1938; 3 were ministers who were actually arrested in the Caucasus

So: Letkemann Notes

Yekaterinovka, Ignatyev - 93 men arrested 1935-1938, none known to have returned

So: Letkemann Notes



VICTIMS OF THE PURGE

LIST OF INDIVIDUAL MENNONITES IMPRISONED/EXILED/EXECUTED IN 1937

Many of the people on this list worked on collective farms, also called "kolkhoz." The farms varied considerably in size, with a number of brigades fulfilling the various functions. Not everyone, such as ministers, were allowed to participate; they were given small plots of land, a few animals, and had to survive on their own. Obviously working on a kolkhoz did not exempt people from the terror of Stalin's Purge, since even chairmen of the organization could be arrested. The ordinary worker was called "kolkhoznik." Leaders of brigades, often consisting of about 30 workers, were called "brigadier." They were in charge of various sections of the work, such as ploughing or harvesting. There were also specialists, such as "tractorists," who not only drove the tractors and combines, but had to be good mechanics, since the machines often broke down. Chauffeurs or drivers drove trucks and cars, but also had to be good mechanics, for the same reason. In charge of the whole operation of the kolkhoz was the chairman, sometimes also called mayor.

"Repatriated" in the context of this list, means that the people were trying to escape Russia, mostly on the Great Trek, but were recaptured by the advancing Soviet troops, or were kidnaped by the Soviets from their camps in the Allied Zones of occupation. The Soviets acted on the basis of the Yalta Agreement, whereby citizens of a country were "allowed" to return to their homelands after the war. Little did the western leaders realize that many of those from the Soviet Union were desperately trying to escape tyranny. Altogether there were about 35,000 Mennonites on the Great Trek; about 23,000 were "repatriated," while about 12,000 escaped to Canada and South America.

"Rehabilitated" means that the case was later reviewed by legal authorities, starting during the time of Nikita Khrushchev, to separate the truly criminal from the political convictions. The most common conclusion for Mennonites was that "the evidence had been insufficient for conviction." Their criminal record was then erased. This did not bring back the victims from the dead, but it did help the families, who were then ordinary citizens who could obtain jobs, or collect pensions.

Included in this list are people who were reportedly arrested in 1937-1938. When more specific details became apparent, most of these were actually arrested in late 1937, then often shot or sentenced in early 1938. Many bullets were used early in 1938, mostly February. Usually one bullet per person, to the back of the head.

ASSR, which is mentioned as the final destination for a number of people, stands for "Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic." The number of these has varied from time to time. In 1978 there were 16, including such "republics" as Bashkir, Buryat, Kalmyk, Karelian, Komi, Mari, Tatar, Mordova and Yakut.

A few abbreviations are used, the most common one relates to information graciously provided by Peter Letkemann of Winnipeg. He was recipient of material from George Epp, but has also tirelessly

collected much more information about many Mennonites who have suffered during the last century. This source, Letkemann Notes, is designated "So: L N" in this list.

Abrahams, Peter Jakob

Moved from Pordenau, Molotschna to Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937; sentenced for being "enemy of the people" died in exile; So: L N

Abrams, Bernhard

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Abrams, Franz

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; teacher; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown
Brother of Heinrich Abrams; So: L N

Abrams, Heinrich

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown
Brother of teacher Franz Abrams; So: L N

Adrian, David

Born 1911; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Andres, Heinrich (Jr)

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Andres, Jakob

Born in 1875; lived in Choritza, Chortitza; teacher; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Andres, Jakob

Possibly from Fuerstenau, Molotschna
Uncle of Justine Schmidt (nee Andres); arrested 1937-1938
So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I p 225

Andres, Jakob Johann

Arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown
Brother of Johann Andres of Paulsheim, Molotschna, also arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Andres, Johann Johann

Born 1891 in Fuerstenau, Molotschna, the eldest of 13 children
Dorfschule in Ladekopp; became laborer, brick layer in "Kolkhoz Kirov"
Married Justina Hildebrandt in 1911, bought *Wirtschaft* in Friedensruh
Helper in the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church
First arrested 1931; exiled to Murmansk, where he worked in the forest
Returned 1934, moved to the Caucasus, but returned to Paulsheim; worked on a collective
One of the first to be arrested in the village, 22 October 1937; for "systematic
fascist counter-revolutionary agitation"; shot 23 November 1937
So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 222-228; L N

Andres, Peter Jakob (see biography p 204)

Born 2 March 1878 in Mariawohl, Molotschna; was uncle of Johann Johann Andres
Married Katharina Penner; lived in Mariawohl; 11 children
Wealthy, had a beautiful *Wirtschaft*, a lumber yard and implement dealership; bought wheat
They had a large house; in the 1920s they opened it up for evangelistic services and Bible conferences.

Daughters Anna (Epp) and Katharina (Janzen) married and migrated to Canada
Peter was disenfranchised, and virtually went into hiding for a number of years
Worked as watchman on fields, to protect against thieves and crows
He was picked up at his place of work and arrested in August 1937; exiled; fate not known
Wife Katharina and daughter Justina tried to escape, but were repatriated

Katharina died 25 December 1963 in Russia

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I p 226-227; Family information; *Molotschna Historical Atlas* pp 64, 158-159

Baerg, Abraham Abraham (see biography p 206)

Born 16 January 1890 in Bijuk-Busau, Crimea

Sanitaetsdienst, teacher, minister of the Neukirch Mennonite Church

Married Anna Dueck of Neukirch; six children

Disenfranchised, lost his farm

Arrested 25 January 1937 and exiled

Last known to be in Arkhangelsk, White Sea region

Two sons, 2 daughters and son-in-law Janzen deported in September 1941

Wife Anna, eldest daughter Maria and her daughter as well as the youngest Baerg daughter, escaped to Germany

Brother Wilhelm Baerg eventually got to Brazil

So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 303-312; Family information; Busau Mennonite Church records

Baerg, Isaak

Born 1907; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ballau, Wilhelm Peter

Born 10 October 1888; lived in Lindenau, Molotschna

Worker in "Engels Kolkhoz," Tokmak Region

Arrested 26 December 1937, executed in Melitopol 10 January 1938

By decision of 24 April 1963, he was rehabilitated; So: L N

Ballau, Wilhelm Wilhelm

Born 1915; lived in Lindenau, Molotschna

Arrested 19 November 1937, accused of "anti-Soviet activity" according to article 54-10, paragraph 2, and article 54-11 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code

Exiled to Arkhangelsk; then sentenced to death; shot 29 September 1941; So: L N

Balzer, Johann

Born 1883; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 15 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Balzer, Martin

From Elisabeththal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; So: L N

Balzer, Peter Peter

Born 1880; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; carpenter

Arrested 26 September 1937 "for systematic counter-revolutionary agitation"

Sentenced to 10 years in exile in Komi, ASSR; died in Lokchim 30 March 1938; So: L N

Banmann, Peter

Lived in Margenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; exiled; fate not known; So: L N

Barg, Johann

Born 1867; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Bargen, Gerhard Peter

Born 14 October 1866; lived in Nikolaifeld, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 8 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Bargen, Jakob Peter (see picture p 265)

From Altona, Sagradovka; carpenter

Authorities tried to win him over to Communist ideas, then to enroll him as an informer

He rejected these suggestions; he was ejected from his home village and was disenfranchised

He went to another village, Schoensee, where he worked as carpenter in the school, and gave instruction in carpentry

After a few months, in October 1933, he was arrested and jailed

He was allowed one week to go home and say his farewells,

then was exiled to the far north, to Schuyskoye, north of Vologda.

There he lived in one room of an abandoned church.

He was allowed to continue his carpentry work

Jakob was released and returned home just before Christmas in 1936

But 24 August 1937 he was arrested again on the way home from working on a threshing machine for the collective

The small package of food and clothing he had taken with him was returned in a few days

This could mean that he was executed

Also arrested that day were:

Minister Aron Regehr and a Dueck from Schoensee

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 276-277

Bargen, Peter

Born 1910; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 3 December 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Barkmann, Jakob Julius

Born 2 March 1910 in Alexanderwohl, Molotschna

Studied as teacher in German language in Pokrovsk Institute, Leningrad

Arrested in Leningrad 27 April 1937, accused under section 58-10, paragraph 2

Condemned to death 15 August 1937, shot 18 August 1937

Rehabilitated 30 June 1959; So: L N

Barkmann, Johann Julius

Born 2 June 1902 in Neukirch, Molotschna; not a Party member

Arrested 17 November 1937, sentenced to death 23 November 1937

Rehabilitated 8 June 1959; So: L N

Bartel, Johann

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Bartel, Kornelius Johann

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 25 October 1937; So: L N

Bartels, Greta

Lived in Kleefeld, Molotschna; husband also arrested; Greta arrested 1937-1938;

Sent to Melitopol; 11 month old daughter Rita died of pneumonia; So: L N

Bartels, Mr

Lived in Kleefeld, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown

Wife Greta also arrested; So: L N

Bartsch, Gerhard

Born 1902; lived in Usilie, Caucasus; arrested 1937; executed 1937; So: L N

Baumann, Heinrich Gerhard

Born 26 July 1898 in Davlekanovo; wife Margarita Neufeld

Arrested 1937; died in exile 26 July 1942 in a camp in Siberia

So: Neufeld Family History, Gerhard Neufeld, Ufa, Russia

Becker, Heinrich Johann

Born 1908; lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; kolkhoznik

Arrested 20 December 1937 "for counter-revolutionary activity"; shot 11 January 1938

So: L N

Becker, Heinrich Peter

Born 1888; moved from Franzthal to Elisabethtal, Molotschna; arrested 30 November 1937

On 7 December 1937, was sentenced to 10 years hard labour, for being a member of an

"organization planning the downfall of the government" So: L N

Becker, Jakob Jakob

Born 21 December 1910 in Schoensee, Molotschna

Parents Jakob Jakob Becker and Anna Peter Wiebe, Lot No 17 of Schoensee

The property was confiscated in 1930 and they were expelled

Jakob married Katharina Wilhelm Neufeld of Liebenau 17 May 1936

Son Jakob born 2 June 1937

Arrested 25 October 1937; shot in Melitopol prison 23 November 1937

So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 142-143; Neufeld Family History, Gerhard

Neufeld, Ufa, Russia

Becker, Jacob

Born 1906; probably from Rudnerweide, Molotschna; wife Sara Fresen, child Elsa (1933)

Arrested one night in December 1937:

Brothers Jacob, Peter, Johann, Kornelius and Franz Friesen and brothers-in-law

Jacob Becker and Jacob Plett

Latest family information is that they were shot the day after their arrest

So: *Memories from My Life*, by Heinrich J Friesen pp 46, 153, 154

Becker, Jakob Peter

Age 37; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Becker, Johann

Lived in Klinok, Neu Samara; arrested May 1937; sentenced to 7 years exile; actually shot

So: L N

Becker, Peter

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Berg, Dietrich (Dimitri) Heinrich

Lived in Bogomasov, Neu Samara; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Berg, Heinrich

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Berg, Isaak Kornelius

Born 1901; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; carpenter

Arrested 24 December 1937 "for anti-Soviet agitation"; shot 7 February 1938; So: L N

Berg, Jakob

From Blumenort, Molotschna; arrested in 1937, executed in November 1937; So: L N

Berg, Jakob Jakob

Born 29 October 1929; lived in Blumenort, Molotschna, moved to Melitopol; blacksmith

Arrested 7 February 1937; refused to join kolkhoz, accused of sabotage;

Sent into exile; died in camp 29 November 1937; So: L N

Berg, Jakob Jakob

Born 29 October 1909; lived in Blumenort, Molotschna; accountant

Arrested November 1937; executed 10 November 1937; rehabilitated 1965; So: L N

Berg, Johann Jakob

Born 1883; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; brigade leader

First arrested in 1928, then 1930, then 1933

Came before a judge 7 June 1937, never seen again; So: L N

Berg, Johann Johann

Lived in Blumenort, Molotschna, blacksmith; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Berg, Julius

Age 42; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; So: L N

Berg, Kornelius Kornelius

Born 1909; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938

Shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Berg, Peter

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Berg, Peter

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 for being an "enemy of the people"

Died in exile; So: L N

Berg, Peter Johann

Born 1890; lived in Blumenort, Molotschna

Arrested 1937-1938; probably shot 1938; wife and son to BC, Canada; So: L N

Bergen, Abram

Lived in Krassikov, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; executed; So: L N

Bergen, Abram Isaak

Born 23 April 1907; lived in Vladimirovka, Arkadak; veterinarian; arrested 5 November 1937

For "anti-Soviet agitation"; shot in Balashov 16 February 1938; rehabilitated

22 November 1939(?) (probably 1969); So: L N

Bergen, Bernhard Kornelius

Born 1884; lived in Kaltan/Pleshanovo, Neu Samara; exiled to Solovki 1929; returned 1935

Arrested 1937 (twice), once on 14 July 1937; shot; So: L N

Bergen Gerhard Jakob

Born 1881; lived in Kaltan, Neu Samara; arrested 11 September 1937; fate unknown

Rehabilitated 2 April 1973; So: L N

Bergen, Gerhard Johann

Born 1907; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Arrested in 1937; came back soon after his arrest; to Canada, where he died; So: L N

Bergen, Heinrich Peter

Born 1917 in Lichtenau; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza ; tractorist

Arrested 14 December 1937 for “conducting counter- revolutionary propaganda”

Shot 1 February 1938; So: L N

Bergen, Jakob

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate not known; So: L N

Bergen, Johann Abram

Born 1895; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Bergen, Johann Jakob

Born 12 April 1907; lived in Vladimirovka, Arkadak; arrested 17 December 1937; returned 1947

Died in Frunze; So: L N

Bergen, Kornelius

Born 1900; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Bergen, Mr

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; *Zentralschule* teacher; arrested 1937- 1938; died in labour camp; So: L N

Bergen, Peter

Born 1888; lived in Kronsweide, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 27 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Bergen, Peter

Born 17 September 1887; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Arrested 27 December 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Bergen, Peter

Born 1889; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; exiled to the Far East

So: L N

Bergen, Peter P

From Hamberg, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Bergen, Salomon Elias

Born 16 November 1881; lived in Schoenhorst, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested in 1937; died 18 August 1941, alleged haemorrhage in a labour camp; So: L N

Bergmann, Heinrich

Born 1918; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; student

Arrested 30 April 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Bergmann, Heinrich Johann

Born 1885; lived in Liebental, Alt Samara; exiled to Arkhangelsk 30 March 1933

Arrested there 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Bergmann, Kornelius Peter (see biography p 207)

Born 25 February 1872 in Ladekopp, Molotschna

Well educated, became German teacher in Halbstadt *Zentralschule*

Neurotic illness for many years, so that he was not employed

To Rueckenau to live with his brother, then to Melitopol, where he wrote and distributed tracts

Worked with the Molotschna Teachers' Society, wrote articles in various Mennonite periodicals, under pseudonym *Orosander*

Arrested 1936, exiled to Siberia in 1937, died in Siberia 13 December 1937

So: *Rueckenauf* p 187; L N; Extensive family information; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol 1, pp 110-113

Bergmann, Peter

From Landskrone, Molotschna; arrested in 1937 and never heard from again

Son Tobias arrested and sentenced to death in 1938, commuted and exiled to Siberia

Wife and children made it to relatives in Detroit, USA; So: L N

Block, Adolf

Born 1901; lived in Reinfeld, Sagradovka ; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Block, Heinrich

Born 1895; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; farmer; arrested 4 November 1937; fate unknown;

So: L N

Block, Jakob

Born 1860; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; minister; arrested 1 November 1937; tortured; died

So: L N

Block, Johann

Born 1905; arrested in Reinfeld, Sagradovka in 1937; family moved to Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; his fate unknown; So: L N

Block, Johann Peter

Born 1893; lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 4 June 1937; released 25 October 1939

Deported 13 September 1941; died in Siberia; So: L N

Block, Peter

Born 1903; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Bock, Jakob Gerhard

Born 7 February 1883 in Schoenwiese, Chortitza

Parents Gerhard Bock and Helene Jakob Goerzen

Married Justina Abraham Koop August 1917

Six children: Victor (1919-1920), Georg (1921), Victor (1924-1924), all born in Schoenwiese, Irene (1926-1927) and Margaretha (1926-1927) (twins), likely born in Kharkov, Ernst (1929) in Schoenwiese

Studied at an Institute of Commerce in Germany

Back in Russia he worked in Alexandrovsk, at the Koop factory

Moved to Kharkov in 1924, then back to Schoenwiese

Jakob arrested 7 July 1937, likely in Schoenwiese

Justina and children to Canada, where Justina died in 1949

So: *Cities* Vol 2 p 36, 191; L N

Boese, Franz Peter

Born 1880; moved from Tiegenhagen to Melitopol; arrested 8 September 1937, accused of

“counter-revolutionary agitation” shot 23 November 1937; So: L N

Bold, Jakob

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an “enemy of the people” died in exile

So: L N

Boldt, Heinrich Peter

Born 1908; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna

Butcher for the Tokmak Provision Office

Arrested 14 November 1937 for “conducting counter-revolutionary activities”

Shot 14 January 1938; So: L N

Boldt, Dietrich

Born 1910; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagra dovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Boldt, Wilhelm

Born 1915; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagra dovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Boldt, Johann

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Boldt, Johann (Hans) Nikolai

Born 1893; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Arrested in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Born, Franz Jakob

Lived in Wernersdorf, Molotschna; minister; arrested in 1937; died in Siberia; So: L N

Born, Gerhard Franz

Lived in Wernersdorf, Molotschna; born lame; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; So: L N

Born, Gerhard Gerhard

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; survived the exile; to Germany

Died in Wolfsburg, Germany 22 March 1984; So: L N

Born, Johann (Hans) Gerhard

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Born, Nikolai Gerhard

Born 1905; lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; carpenter in brick factory

Arrested 13 November 1937 for “counter-revolutionary agitation”

Shot 2 February 1938; So: L N

Boschmann, Daniel Daniel

Born 1879; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Boschmann, David Daniel

Born 1877; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested 1937; sentenced to death by a Troika

Executed; So: L N

Boschmann, Jakob

Born 1887; lived in Tiege, Sagra dovka; farmer; arrested 8 September 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Boschmann, Jakob Daniel

Born 1876; lived in Rosenort, Molotschna; arrested 5 August 1937; shot 22 August 1937

So: L N

Boschmann, Kornelius

Lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested, probably in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Brandt, Mr

Lived in Kasbeck; arrested 1936-1937 as “enemy of the people” died in exile; So: L N

Braun, Abram

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate not known; So: L N

Braun, Abram

Born 1911; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; farmer; arrested 1 November 1937; fate not known
So: L N

Braun, Abram

Lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 20 December 1937; returned to his family in N Turinsk
in 1947; So: L N

Braun, Abram Abram

Born 1907; lived in Einlage, Chortitza
Arrested 1 January 1937; exiled in 1938; had a wife and child; So: L N

Braun, Aron

Lived in Donskoye, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Dietrich, Dietrich

Born 19 April 1879; lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; farmer; sentenced to 5 years in exile
29 January 1930; returned; arrested 10 October 1937; shot in Balashov 31 October 1937;
So: L N

Braun, Elisabeth Abram

Born 31 December 1905; lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; kolkhoznik;
Arrested 15 December 1937 for "anti-Soviet agitation" sentenced to 8 years exile
Fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Franz

Lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer
Arrested 8 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Franz

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate not known; So: L N

Braun, Franz Jakob

Born 1893; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer
Arrested 15 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Gerhard

Born 1882; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Gerhard Gerhard

Born 1873; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; carpenter; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Gerhard Jakob

Born 1903; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; technician
Arrested 15 December 1937; fate unknown
Husband of Anna Wall/Regehr; So: L N

Braun, Gerhard Jakob

Born in 1910; twin of Johann Jakob Braun
Lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; member of the kolkhoz
Arrested in 1937; never heard from again; So: L N

Braun, Heinrich

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Heinrich

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as "enemy of the people" died in exile
So: L N

Braun, Heinrich Gerhard

Born 1891; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested 8 September 1937; fate unknown, but probably shot; So: L N

Braun, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1895; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Isaak Jakob

Born 28 February 1880; lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; kolkhoznik

Arrested 7 November 1929; released in 3 years; rearrested 19 April 1937

Released 21 August 1939; So: L N

Braun, Jakob

Born 1885; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested 4 November 1937; never heard from again; So: L N

Braun, Jakob

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Jakob Dietrich

Born 1903; from Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna

At the time of his arrest wife Maria was pregnant with their fourth child, Helena

Was arrested 14 November 1937, two Toews brothers from the village and a third man did the actual arresting

Charged under provision:

Section 54-10 Paragraph 2 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code with "conducting counter-revolutionary propaganda"

The provocation had likely been that the Brauns had refused to drink alcohol at November 7 celebrations at the village club-house. They had been confronted by the Toews brothers and a Heinrich Neufeld

Wife Maria was not arrested because she was pregnant

Jakob was sentenced 9 December 1937

Executed 14 January 1938; So: L N

Braun, Johann

Born 1893; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Braun, Johann

Born 1898; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; arrested 19 April 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Johann

Born 1908; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; master smith

Arrested 15 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Johann (Sr)

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Johann (Hans)

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Johann Abram

From Gnadenfeld, Molotschna

Son of Abram Braun, minister of the Gnadenfeld Mennonite Church

Father Abram disenfranchised; family moved place to place, including Caucasus, in 1936 to Kirov near Smolensk

Johann was married and had children

Johann was arrested in 1937 and sent into exile; fate not known

Father Abram was arrested 12 February 1938

Mother, 2 sisters and Johann's family reached Germany

So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 305-312

Braun, Johann Dietrich

Born 1903; lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; kolkhoznik; arrested 17 December 1937

Sentenced to 10 years exile; returned to Karaganda in 1947, where he died; So: L N

Braun, Johannes Isaak

Lived in Kotlyarevka, Memrik; agronomist; arrested 23 November 1937; shot 1938; So: L N

Braun, Johann Jakob

Born in 1910; twin of Gerhard Jakob Braun; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza

Arrested in 1937; never heard from again; So: L N

Braun, Johann Johann

Born 1901; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; Deputy Chairman of "Kolkhoz Litvin"

Arrested 4 November 1937 "for systematic conduct of counter revolutionary work against Soviet power"; Shot 27 December 1937; So: L N

Braun, Johann Johann

Born 1905; lived in Zaporozhye

Arrested 4 November 1937 for "systematic conduct of counter-revolutionary work against Soviet power"; shot 27 December 1937; So: L N

Braun, Johann Johann

Born 20 July 1888; lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; kolkhoznik; arrested 15 December 1937

Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Mr

Born 1894; lived in Heuboden, Borozenko; arrested September 1937; So: L N

Braun, Mr

From Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Braun, Nikolai

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in prison in Melitopol; So: L N

Braun, Peter Jakob

Born 1900; lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 17 November 1937; sentenced

21 November 1937 to 10 years in labour camp; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Peter Johann

Born 21 February 1891; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; member kolkhoz

Arrested 15 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Peter Johann

Born 1895; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; official of some kind

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Braun, Wilhelm Johann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Breul (Braeul?), Abram

Born 1903; lived in Neu-Chortitza, Baratov; arrested 5 December 1937

Exiled to Yaroslav; So: L N

Breul (Braeul?), Aron Heinrich

Born 1883; moved from Pordenau to Mariental, Molotschna

Worked on "Kolkhoz Autodor"

Arrested 29 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary activity"

Shot 30 November 1937; So: L N

Brucks, Jakob Johann (Hans)

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Bueckert, Abram Abram

Born 20 May 1882; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza; kolkhoznik

Arrested 29 October 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Bueckert, Abram Peter

Probably from Schoeneberg

Eldest son of Minister Peter P Bueckert of Schoeneberg, Chortitza

Father was arrested 29 September 1936

Abram returned from arrest on 1 May 1937

then was rearrested 8 August 1937, and has never been heard from since

His wife and 10 year old son fled to Germany, then to Paraguay

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I p 114

Bueckert, Abram Peter

Born 1914; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza; chauffeur

Arrested 14 August 1937 for "anti-Soviet activity" shot 1 September 1937; So: L N

Bueckert, Franz Abram

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Bueckert, Franz Jakob

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Bueckert, Jakob Jakob

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Bueckert, Johann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Bueckert, Johann (Hans) Abram

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Bueckert, Peter

Born 1899; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza; collectivist

Arrested 29 October 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Buhler, Bernhard (Boris)

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Buhler, Isaak

Born 1911; lived in Friedensfeld, Sgradovka; bookkeeper; arrested 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Buhler, Mr

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; *Zentralschule* teacher; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown
So: L N

Buhler, Wilhelm

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Buller, Isaak Peter (see biography p 209)

Born 13 November 1897; lived in Tiede, Sagradovka; bookkeeper for the kolkhoz

Wife Helena Kroeker; five children; one additional daughter, Susanne, was born 8 August 1938, 8 months after he was arrested

Arrested 4 December 1937; likely shot in Kronau early 1938

Arrested because someone drew a swastika on his jacket

Wife Helena and some of her children eventually to Berlin, participated in the "Berlin Escape," then via the ship *Volendam* to Paraguay; all eventually to Canada

So: Susanne Thiessen, Winnipeg

Buller, Jakob

Born 1887; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Cornies, Heinrich

Born 1892; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 4 August 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Cornies, Johann

Lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested July 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Cornies, Johann Johann

Born 1900; lived in Fischau, Molotschna; vegetable gardener

Arrested 17 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary agitation aiming at destruction of existing order"; shot 23 November 1937; So: L N

Deger, Wilhelm

Born 1913; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; ironworker

Arrested 4 December 1937; returned in 1940; So: L N

Derksen, Aron Abram

Born 1888, lived in Schoenhorst, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Derksen, David David

Born 23 September 1910; lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; MTS combiner

Arrested 22 September 1937; sentenced to 10 years for "anti-Soviet agitation"; fate unknown
So: L N

Derksen, Dietrich

Born 1877; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 4 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Derksen, Gerhard

Born 1886; lived in Burwalde, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested in autumn 1937; exiled to unknown region; died; So: L N

Derksen, Gerhard

Lived in Gnadental, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate not known; So: L N

Derksen, Gerhard

Born 1917; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; teacher; arrested 15 May 1937; fate not known

So: L N

Derksen, Jakob

From Wernersdorf, Molotschna; one of 37 men arrested in Wernersdorf in 1937-1938; So: L N

Derksen, Kornelius Kornelius

Age 50; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Derksen, Peter

Born 1884; lived in Blumenhof, Borozenko; farmer

One of 3 men arrested in the village in 1937, arrested 2 October 1937; exiled to Komi, ASSR

Fate unknown; So: L N

Derksen, Peter

Born 1899; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza; collectivist

Arrested 29 October 1937; fate unknown; wife Maria (Guenther) lived in Canada; So: L N

Derksen, Peter

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; died in exile 1942; So: L N

Derksen, Peter Johann

Born 1881; lived in Kuterlya, Neu Samara; arrested 8 October 1937; fate unknown

Rehabilitated; So: L N

Derksen, Peter Abram

From Schoeneberg, Chortitza Colony; parents Abram Derksen and Katharina Rempel

Wife Maria: children Peter, Katie, Johann, Viktor, Maria

One of 17 men taken in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

The "Black Raven" was waiting for him when he got home from his agricultural work

He was allowed to say a prayer with his family before he was arrested

Wife Maria went to visit him in the jail in Zaporozhye on one occasion about three months later. The second time she went he was gone, the authorities did not know where to

Presumption is that he was shot

The family later travelled to Warthegau by train, then to Germany, and in time directly to Canada

So: Derksen Family information

Derksen, Peter Michael

Born 1887; lived in Wernersdorf, Molotschna; deacon

Dekulakized 17 May 1931; arrested 22 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary agitation"

Shot 23 November 1937; So: L N

Dirks, David

Lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937; sent into exile without trial

Fate unknown; So: L N

Dirks, Hermann

Born 1905; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested in 1937; fate unknown So: L N

Dirks, Hermann

Lived in Dolinovka, Memrk; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dirks, Johann

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dirks, Peter

Lived in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; arrested December 1937 on basis of German nationality

Exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Dirks, Peter

Born about 1900; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dirksen, Gerhard

Lived in Elisabeththal Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown

Wife Justina arrested 19 November, but released in February 1938; So: L N

Dirksen, Justina (nee Dueck)

From Elisabeththal, Molotschna

Husband Gerhard arrested earlier in 1937

She was arrested 19 November 1937 with 2 other wives as "wives of enemies of the people"

Had 4 sons and 1 daughter, sent to 2 different orphanages, in Prishib and Molochansk,
according to age

Was imprisoned first in Halbstadt, then in Melitopol, was horribly mistreated

She and her children returned to the village in February 1938; So: L N

Dirksen, Kornelius

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Doerksen, Abram

Born 1909; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Doerksen, David

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people" died in exile

So: L N

Doerksen, Mr

Apparently lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; teacher; he was arrested in Neu-Halbstadt
1937-1938; wife returned to Neu-Schoensee; his fate unknown; So: L N

Driediger, Eduard Johann

Born 21 November 1907; lived in Neuhoftnung, Alt Samara; arrested 25 December 1937

Sentenced to 10 years exile on 29 December 1937; fate unknown; rehabilitated; So: L N

Driediger, Franz

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Driediger, Gerhard

Born 1909; lived in Rotfeld; mill owner; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Driediger, Jakob

Born 1890; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 17 November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Driediger, Jakob

Born 1898; lived in Rotfeld; mill owner; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Driediger, Jakob Jakob

Born 28 August 1875; lived in Nikolaifeld, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 8 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Driediger, Johann Abram

Born 1902; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Driediger, Johann Johann

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; arrested 10 September 1937; never heard from again; So: L N

Driediger, Johann Johann

Born 1889; lived in Murawjewka, Alt Samara; economist; arrested 22 February 1937

On 16 June 1938 sentenced to 5 years exile; fate unknown; rehabilitated; So: L N

Driediger, Kornelius

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; arrested in 1937, fate unknown; So: L N

Driediger, Martin

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Driediger, Wilhelm

Lived in Orloff, Alt Samara; exiled to Arkhangelsk 30 March 1930; arrested there 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Dueck, Abram

Age 35; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937

Arrested just months after the birth of his daughter Gertruda on 12 July 1937

She never saw her father again; So: L N

Dueck, Abram

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dueck, Abram

Born 1904; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; miller; arrested 8 September 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Dueck, Abram

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown

Brother of Franz and Peter; So: L N

Dueck, Abram

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people" died in exile

So: L N

Dueck, Anna Mrs (nee Spenst)

From Elisabeththal, Molotschna

Husband Franz Dueck was arrested earlier in 1937

She was arrested 19 November 1937 with 2 other wives as "wives of enemies of the people"

Had 3 children, sent to orphanages

Was imprisoned first in Halbstadt, then in Melitopol, was horribly mistreated

She and her children returned to the village in February or March 1938; So: L N

Dueck, Aron

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dueck, Aron Aron

Minister from Wernersdorf, Molotschna

Dispossessed November 1929

Was to be arrested 22 April 1930, fled to the Caucasus

One of 3 ministers from Wernersdorf arrested in the Caucasus in 1937-1938; So: L N

Dueck, Aron Aron (see biography p 212)

Born ca 1895 in Prangenau, Molotschna; he was the son of Aron Dueck

Trained as teacher, taught in Margenau for many years

Minister of the Margenau Mennonite Church

Disenfranchised, in time entire family exiled to Kir-Savod in 1931

Wife died; he visited back in Margenau in 1934; married again

New wife and children came to his place of exile

Exiled further North in 1937, and never heard from again

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 338-344

Dueck, David Abram

Born 28 July 1908; lived in Dzhanko, Crimea; arrested 5 November 1937

Sentenced 20 November 1937 to 10 years exile; died 2 May 1938 in Karelia, ASSR; So: L N

Dueck, Franz

From Elisabeththal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937

Wife Anna (nee Spenst) was also arrested later in 1937; So: L N

Dueck, Franz

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown

Brother of Abram and Peter; So: L N

Dueck, Gerhard

From Elisabeththal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dueck, Gerhard

Age 37; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937

Arrested just months after the birth of his daughter Maria on 8 February 1937

She never saw her father again; So: L N

Dueck, Gerhard Peter

Born 1888; lived in Krassikov, Neu Samara; bookkeeper at the "Karl Marz Kolkhoz"

Arrested 13 August 1937; shot; So: L N

Dueck, Heinrich

Born 1876; studied in Berlin

First was minister in the Rueckenau MB Church, then in Gnadenheim; in time called Elder

Exiled 1930-1931; to Memrik for a time, then back to Gnadenheim

Arrested in October 1937; further fate not known

Wife Anna-Filip died 1944 in the Warthegau district of Poland; So: L N

Dueck, Heinrich

Born 1897; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; moved to the Crimea

Arrested in Crimea 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Dueck, Heinrich

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown

Brother of Jakob; So: L N

Dueck, Heinrich Peter

Born 22 January 1895; lived in Nikolaifeld, Sgradovka; farmer

One of 8 men arrested in the village in 1937; exiled to Komi, ASSR; So: L N

Dueck, Jakob

Age 31; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937

Arrested before the birth of his daughter Anna on 27 January 1938

She never saw her father; So: L N

Dueck, Jakob

Born 1909; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka

One of 16 men from the village arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dueck, Jakob

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown

Brother of Heinrich; So: L N

Dueck, Johann

Lived in Elisabeththal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dueck, Johann

Lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937; sent into exile without trial; died in exile

So: L N

Dueck, Johann

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested in 1937-1938 as an "enemy of the people" released sick in 1939; died soon after; So: L N

Dueck, Johann Johann

Born 24 August 1907; born in Memrik, then lived in Nikolaifeld, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 8 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dueck, Kornelius Jakob

Born 1896, lived in Schoenhorst, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dueck, Maria

Lived in Nikolaiyevka, Altei Region; arrested 1937-1938; in concentration camp in Slavgorod region; exiled about 5 years, then released; 2009 lives in Germany, member of the Huellhorst Mennonite congregation; So: Family information

Dueck, Mr

From Schoenau, Sagradovka; arrested and jailed 24 August 1937

The small package of food and clothing he had with him was returned in a few days

This may mean that he was executed

Also taken the same day were Jakob Peter Bargen and Minister Aron Regehr of Altona

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I p 277; L N

Dueck, Peter

From Elisabeththal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate not known; So: L N

Dueck, Peter

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown

Brother of Abram and Franz; So: L N

Dueck, Peter Jakob

Born 1871; moved from Pastwa, Molotschna to Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; shot 16 August 1937; So: L N

Dueck, Peter Peter

Born 28 October 1900; moved from Pastwa, Molotschna to Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937

Died in prison 23 October 1938; So: L N

Dueckmann, Jakob

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dueckmann, Johann

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Duerksen, Abram

Born 1895; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Duerksen, Abram

Born 29 March 1904; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; brigadier in the kolkhoz

Arrested 17 September 1937; taken to prison in Chabarovsk, where he worked in the forest

6 May 1938 taken to Kherson for court appearance on 8 May

Peter Boldt of his own village was there to accuse him, of "having connections with Hitler, and planning to blow up a bridge"

Abram was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Boldt was paid 120 rubles for his testimony

Together with Jakob Regehr wrote a song/poem while in prison in 1937; So: L N

Duerksen, Jakob

From Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; one of 17 from the village who was arrested in 1937

So: L N

Duerksen, Jakob Jakob

Born 8 April 1914; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 13 September 1937

Exiled to the Far East; So: L N

Duerksen, Jakob Jakob

Born 5 November 1893 in Hierschau, Molotschna

Son of former *Oberschulze* Jakob Duerksen; was *Sanitaeter* during W W I in the Caucasus

Married with one son, two daughters; dekulakized 1931

Arrested in 1937 and sent to a concentration camp in northern Russia (Siberia?)

So: *Hierschau*, p 309; D J Duerksen, brother of Jakob Jakob Duerksen, personal letter

Duerksen, Johann

From Elisabeththal, Molotschna; married

One of at least 11 men in Elisabeththal arrested in 1937; So: L N

Duerksen, Johann

Lived in Pordenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate not known; So: L N

Duerksen, Johann (Hans) Johann

Born 6 April 1902, probably on Hochfeld Estate near the Molotschna

Parents Johann Duerksen and Katharina Heinrichs

Father Johann was a business manager on various estates, so the family moved frequently

Johann was the fourth of 13 children (of which only six reached adulthood)

Student at *Lehrerseminar* at the University of Simferopol in 1924; became a teacher in Crimea

Married Anna Neufeld 6 April 1927 in Menlertschik; had two children

Not a church member, was a government employee, so he could not leave with his parents, who left in 1929, and eventually migrated to Paraguay in 1930

Imprisoned in 1937

Sentenced to death on 23 November 1937, and likely executed the same day, in Melitopol

Letter received dated 12 June 1959 that he was rehabilitated. His conviction had been

based on unsubstantiated evidence, and therefore was not valid

So: *Cities* Vol 1 pp 232, 415-416; Duerksen Family history

Duerksen, Julius Jakob

Born 1 January 1910; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Duerksen, Peter

Born 1867; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Dyck, Abram

Born 1900; lived in Einlage, Chortitza: bookkeeper

Arrested 8 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Abram

Born 1900; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo

Exiled to Urals in 1930; again arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Abram

Born 1902; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Abram

Born 1913; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; farmer

Arrested in November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Abram Abram

Born 1898; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, in the summer; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Abram Abram

Born 1885; lived in Nikolaidorf, Molotschna; watchman

Arrested 3 December 1937 for "counter-revolutionary propaganda among German population"

Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Abram Bernhard

Born 16 March 1901; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Left the village and settled in Zaporozhye

Arrested 3 September 1937; died 23 October 1944, presumably in exile; So: L N

Dyck, Abram Johann

Born 1907; lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; brigadier of the kolkhoz;

Arrested 9 October 1937; sentenced to 10 years exile

Returned 1956; died in Frunze 20 July 1981; So: L N

Dyck, Albert

Born 1914; lived in Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; moved to the Crimea; arrested there 1937

Fate unknown; family moved back to Zentral; So: L N

Dyck, David

Born 22 July 1878; lived in Leningrad; arrested 4 November 1937; sent to Artemovsk

Shot there; So: L N

Dyck, David Gerhard

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, David Kornelius

Born 1882; lived in Tiegerweide, Molotschna; individual farmer

Arrested 14 November 1937 for "conducting counter-revolutionary nationalist propaganda"

Shot 14 January 1938; So: L N

Dyck, David Kornelius

Born 4 October 1904; lived in Millerovo; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Dietrich

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Dietrich

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Dietrich Dietrich

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Dietrich Peter

Born 6 March 1892; lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; kolkhoznik; arrested 15 December 1937 for "anti-Soviet activity" sentenced to 8 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Elsbeth (nee Wilhelm) (see biography of husband Peter Johann Dyck p 214)

Born in Germany, Lutheran background

Married Peter Johann Dyck on 17 October 1912 in Werdau, Saxony, Germany

Children: Herbert (1913), Margaretha (1915), Peter (1918), Walter (1924), Hildegard (1926)

Husband Peter Dyck was Chief Engineer at the Factory Communar

Peter played a leading role in designing and manufacturing the first harvest combine built in the Soviet Union

Peter arrested 8 April 1937 and executed 17 September 1937

Elsbeth was arrested 11 September 1937 for being a German; sentenced to five years in exile in Siberia

With onset of World War II another five years were tacked on to her sentence

After 11 years, in 1948, son Walter, who was married and lived in the Urals, picked her up and took her to his home. By then she had rheumatoid arthritis and was severely disabled

She died 3 February 1962 in Chelyabinsk, Chelyabinskaya Oblast, in the home of her son, of natural causes

So: Hildegard Epp (nee Dyck), Winnipeg, daughter, personal family information

Dyck, Franz Heinrich

Born 1898; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; chauffeur; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Georg (Gerhard) Kornelius

Born 2 April 1890; lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 2 November 1937 for "anti-Soviet activity"

Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Gerhard

Born 1900; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Gerhard Boris

Born 1904; lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; bookkeeper; arrested 28 December 1937 for "anti-Soviet activity" sentenced to 10 years exile; died in captivity; So: L N

Dyck, Gerhard Peter

Born 14 March 1904; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Harry

Born 28 October 1913 in Schoenwiese, twin to brother Gerald

Parents Hermann Dyck and Paulina Kuehn; exiled, died 21 February 1937

So: *Cities Vol 2* p 21

Dyck, Heinrich

From Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Dyck, Heinrich

From Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; one of 17 men arrested in the village in 1937; So: L N

Dyck, Heinrich Abram

Born 1886; lived in Prangenau, Molotschna; kolkhoznik

Arrested 3 December 1937 for "counter-revolutionary activity among the German population"

Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1907; lived in Pastwa, Molotschna, "Kolkhoz Krupskaya"; blacksmith

Arrested 12 November 1937 for "conducting counter-revolutionary nationalist propaganda"

Shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Dyck, Heinrich Isaak

Born 31 August 1886; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; accountant for the Chortitza hospital

Arrested in 3 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist propaganda"

Shot 9 January 1938; So: L N

Dyck, Heinrich Jakob

Born 1894; lived in Halbstadt, Molotschna; harness-maker

Arrested 11 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary agitation aimed at destruction of Soviet power"

Shot 1 December 1937; So: L N

Dyck, Heinrich Peter

Born 1876; lived in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; carpenter

Arrested 23 October 1937 for "anti-Soviet agitation among the German population"

Shot 29 November 1937; So: L N

Dyck, Heinrich Peter

Born 1895; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 19 September 1937

Exiled to Komi, ASSR; died there 23 July 1943; So: L N

Dyck, Heinrich Peter

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Heinrich W

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Hermann Abram

Born 1908; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot: So: L N

Dyck, Hermann Hermann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Isaak Jakob

Born 1915; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo; arrested in 1937; exiled; died in Russia; So: L N

Dyck, Isaak Johann

Born 22 January 1912; lived in Lidyeveka, Arkadak; tractorist; arrested 9 October 1937

On 31 October 1937 sentenced to 10 years for "anti-Soviet agitation"; died in exile; So: L N

Dyck, Jakob

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Dyck, Jakob

Born 1906; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Jakob Abram

Born 1909; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot: So: L N

Dyck, Jakob Gerhard

Born 1884; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village in 1937 in the summer; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Jakob H

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Jakob Jakob

Born 18 November 1906; moved from Osterwick to Schoenwiese, Chortitza

Arrested 1937-1938 in Schoenwiese; not heard from since; So: L N

Dyck, Jakob Jakob

Born 1892; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So L N

Dyck, Jakob Johann

Born 1914; lived in Lidyevka, Arkadak; kolkhoznik; dekulakized; then arrested

21 January 1937; 10 years sentence for "ant-Soviet agitation" fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Jakob Martin

Born 1894; lived in Neukirch, Molotschna, worked in "Kolkhoz Udami"

Arrested 25 September 1937 "for anti-Soviet activity"

Sent into exile for 10 years; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Jakob Philip

1905; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Dyck, Johann

Born 1901; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; clockmaker

Arrested in 1937; released; found his family in Siberia; So: L N

Dyck, Johann Boris (Bernhard)

Born 1888; lived in Borisopol, Arkadak; kolkhoznik; arrested 16 December 1937

for "anti-Soviet activity" sentenced to 8 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Johann Hermann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Johann Johann

Lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Johann Johann

Born 1885; lived in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; kolkhoznik

Arrested 25 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary agitation calling for terrorist acts"

Shot 23 November 1937; So: L N

Dyck, Johann Peter

Born 1911; lived in Altona, Molotschna; kolkhoznik

Arrested 22 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary agitation and preparation of terrorist acts"

Shot 23 November 1937; So: L N

Dyck, Johann W

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Justina

Born 1888; originally from Franzfeld

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; housewife; worked at the Dniepr Dam

Arrested 11 September 1937 for sabotage; sentenced to 10 years exile; So: L N

Dyck, Kornelius

Born 1889; lived in Nikopol; arrested 30 July 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Kornelius Johann

Born 4 September 1910; lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; kolkhoznik; arrested 6 November 1937

Sentenced to 10 years for "anti-Soviet activity" died in camp; So: L N

Dyck, Maria (nee Isaak)

Wife of Johann Dyck; she was born 1885; lived in Lidyeveka, Arkadak; dekulakized 1930

Rearrested 8 August 1937 for "anti-Soviet activity" shot 17 September 1937 in Balashov

So: L N

Dyck, Martin Johann

Born 1893; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Exiled to Murmansk for 5 years; rearrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Mr

Lived in Schoenau, Sagradovka; one of 4 men arrested in 1937; So: L N

Dyck, Nikolai Johann

Born 1904; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested 16 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Nikolai Peter

Born 22 May 1905; lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; arrested 5 December 1937

Ten year sentence for "anti-Soviet activity" fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Peter

Born 1914; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Peter

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; *Zentralschule* teacher; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Peter

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Peter Jakob

Born 25 June 1877; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; family came to Canada; So: L N

Dyck, Peter Johann (see biography p 214)

Born 3 June 1884 in Osterwick, Chortitza Colony

Peter studied at a technical institute in Zwickau, Germany

Married Elsbeth Wilhelm in 1912. Children: Herbert(1913), Margaretha (1915), Peter (1918), Walter (1924), Hildegard (1926)

Engineer for the A J Koop Factory in Schoenwiese; continued with the factory when it was nationalized and combined with other factories; called Factory Communar. He was the Chief Engineer

With Gerhard Hamm, Kornelius Pauls and others, in 1929 developed the first harvester combine built in the Soviet Union

Factory and deserving workers, including Peter Dyck, received the Order of Lenin 3 September 1931

On 8 April 1937, 11 of the leading people from the factory were arrested. Peter specifically accused of "unreasonably spreading contra-views from an adverse and harmful organization"

Seen in jail by wife Elsbeth and daughter Hildegard on one occasion, then no longer there

Sentenced 16 September, executed 17 September 1937 in Dnepropetrovsk

On 11 September 1937 Elsbeth also arrested and sentenced to five years exile in Siberia

On 6 March 1958 Peter was officially rehabilitated

So: Hildegard Epp (nee Dyck), Winnipeg, personal family information; *Cities Vol 2* p 22

Dyck, Peter Peter

From Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; So: L N

Dyck, Peter Wilhelm

Born 1890; moved from Ukraine to Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; arrested 17 January 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Philip Philip

Born 1888; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka; bookkeeper; arrested in 1935; released

One of 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, in the summer; not heard from again; So: L N

Dyck, Wilhelm

Born 1909; lived in Rosengart, Chortitza; arrested 8 September 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Dyck Wilhelm (widower)

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Dyck, Wilhelm Jakob

Born 16 August 1888; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza

Exiled from the village 1933; later arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Eckert, Heinrich Heinrich

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Eckert, Jakob Heinrich

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Eckert, Johann Heinrich

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Eckert, Kornelius

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Ediger, Daniel Daniel

Born 1899; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; secondary school manager

Arrested 14 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary activities"

Shot 5 February 1938; wife arrested on 20 October 1937; So: L N

Ediger, Mrs Daniel

Lived in Grossweide, Molotschna

With 3 other women arrested on 20 October 1937

The women were taken to prison, their children to orphanages

She and her children later returned, but was later deported to Kazakhstan; So: L N

Ediger, David

Born 1909; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; locksmith

Arrested 16 December 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Ediger, Kolja

Born 1902; lived in Usilie, Caucasus, arrested 1937; released; died in 1950; So: L N

Ediger, Peter

Lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Ediger, Peter Peter

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Eitzen, Johann Johann

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; died in exile in the north in 1944; So: L N

Engbrecht, Franz Jakob

Born 1886; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; carpenter

Arrested 26 September 1937 for "systematic counter-revolutionary agitation"

Exile 10 years; fate unknown; So: L N

Engbrecht, Heinrich Gerhard

Lived in Lugowsk, Neu Samara

Arrested in 1934; back in 6 months; arrested 1937

Transported to Siberia in 1941; died; So: L N

Enns, Abram

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Enns, Abram Abram

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Enns, Abram Johann

Born 1891; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; teacher

One of 16 men from the village who were arrested in 1937, he on 31 October 1937

Exiled to Mordova, ASSR; So: L N

Enns, Aron Peter

Born 1900; lived in Klippenfeld, Molotschna; Kolkhoz Bolshe

Arrested 3 December 1937, accused of "conducting counter-revolutionary nationalist propaganda among the German population"

In accordance with the decision of the NKVD Troika was sent to labour camp for 10 years

Fate unknown; So: L N

Enns, Bernhard Isaak (also spelled Ens)

Born 8 April 1902 in Hochfeld, Yasykovo Colony

Parents Isaak Enns and Susanna Dyck

Married Maria Penner 4 June 1924 in Hochfeld, Yasykovo Colony

She was born 22 March 1904 in Blumengart, Chortitza Colony

Five children, of whom 2 daughters died in childhood

Bernhard was arrested 8 September 1937 and not heard from again

Maria went to Poland in 1943, Paraguay in 1948 and Canada in 1957

Maria died 27 April 1979 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

So: Enns family history

Enns, Daniel Peter

Born 30 November 1913; lived in Rosenort, Molotschna

Postal worker beginning in 1936; arrested August 1937

Died in prison in Melitopol after 2 months; So: L N

Enns, David

Lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 10 October 1937; shot; So: L N

Enns, Franz Franz

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo, on Chutor No 3; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown

So: L N

Enns, Jakob Jakob

Age 54; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Enns, Jakob Peter

Born 18 March 1899; lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 17 August 1937

Died 13 December 1937, likely in prison; So: L N

Enns, Johann Jakob

Born 1905; lived in Lindenau, Molotschna, "Kolkhoz Engels"; veterinarian

Arrested 28 December 1937 for "systematic counter-revolutionary agitation"

Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Enns, Mr

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; *Zentralschule* teacher; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown

So: L N

Enns, Nikolai

Lived in Pleshanovo, Neu Samara, medical technician; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Enns, Paul Peter

Born 1906; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; technician

Arrested 3 November 1937 for "conducting counter-revolutionary nationalist propaganda"

Shot 10 January 1938; So: L N

Enns, Peter Johann

Born 7 January 1897; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; veterinarian

One of 16 men from the village arrested in 1937, he on 31 October 1937

Exiled to Arkhangelsk; released and returned 1947; died in Tashkent 19 April 1977

Family to BC; So: L N

Enns, Peter Peter

Born 12 April 1908; lived in Rosenort, Molotschna; was a brigadier of the kolkhoz

Arrested in September 1937, accused of “defacing a poster of Stalin”

Sent some letters from exile, then nothing further; So: L N

Enns, Waldemar

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Ens, Abram

Born 1901; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza

Wife Margaretha; 9 children, three died young

Margaretha was the sister of Heinrich and Johann Froese

Abram was one of 17 men taken from Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

One of the older daughters visited him in the regional jail in Zaporozhye on one occasion

Exiled, it was said to Siberia; not heard from since

Wife Margaretha and five children on the Great Trek, eventually to Paraguay on the
“*Volendam*” and then to Canada

So: Ens Family history; So: L N

Ens, Abram

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ens, Artur

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown

Brother of Franz; So: L N

Ens, Franz

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown

Brother of Artur; So: L N

Ens, Franz Franz

Born 14 September 1887; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza

Arrested in 1937; imprisoned with Franz Thiessen in Zaporozhye; subsequent fate not known

So: L N

Ens, Gerhard Franz

Lived in Gnadental, Baratov; farmer

One of the four men of the village arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ens, Gerhard Isaak

Born 1881; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ens, Hermann

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Ens, Isaak Isaak

Born 1898; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; official; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ens, Jakob G

Born in 1907; lived in Leonidovka, Ignatyev; brother of Peter G Ens, who was born in 1905

One of at least 2 men who were arrested in the village in December 1937; the other was his
brother Peter

Wife Justina Schwarz exiled to Akbazov, Kazakhstan in 1942; children Victor and Maria
So: L N

Ens, Johann

Born 1889; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 28 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ens, Johann

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Ens, Paul

One of many men taken from Chortitza, many of his friends had already been taken

Had just recovered from a serious operation, had and orderly to help

Could hardly sit, walked with difficulty

Was arrested 3 AM on 4 November 1937

The next day he gave a short wave to his family from an automobile

To prison in Alexandrovsk

Finally 11 January 1938 it was declared that all men had been sent away, to the north

Has not been heard from since

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 277

Ens, Peter G

Born 1905; lived in Leonidovka, Ignatyev

Brother of Jakob G Ens, who was born in 1907

One of at least 2 men arrested in the village in December 1937; the other was his brother

Jakob; So: L N

Ens, Peter Isaak

Born 8 April 1904; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; minister

Arrested 27 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Epp, Abram

Born 1912; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; farm worker

Arrested November 1937; exiled to Siberia; fate unknown; So: L N

Epp, Abram Jakob

Born 1911; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo, farmer

Exiled to Urals in 1930; rearrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Epp, Boris Heinrich

Born 1880; lived in Tiegerweide, Molotschna; arrested 4 November 1937 for "recruiting insurrectional personnel" shot 10 January 1938; So: L N

Epp, David David

Born 3 December 1886 in Ekaterinoslav; son of Elder David H Epp

Married Mathilde Fast who was born 1885: children David, Heinrich

David was an electrical engineer, Mathilde a bookkeeper

David arrested and exiled in 1937

Mathilde to Germany, to Canada in 1948, died in 1957

So: *Cities* Vol 1 p 90; *Cities* Vol 2 pp 104-105

Epp, David David

Born 23 December 1886; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza

Arrested 1937 as a traitor; never heard from again; So: L N

Epp, David Johann

Born 1907; lived in Alexanderwohl, Molotschna

Arrested in the Donbass region in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Epp, Dietrich Johann

Born 1901; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; kolkhoz member

Arrested 5 September 1937 for “being a recruited agent of the German intelligence service”
Shot November 16 1937; So: L N

Epp, Franz

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Epp, Heinrich

From Kalinovo, Memrik Colony; had long worked as an accountant
Arrested 1937; many men taken from the village; fate unknown
So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 427

Epp, Heinrich

Lived in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Epp, Heinrich

Lived in Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested in December 1937; fate not known; So: L N

Epp, Heinrich

Lived in Nikolaifeld, Caucasus; arrested 23 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Epp, Heinrich Gerhard

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Epp, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 9 May 1873 in Chortitza, Chortitza
Studied at the *Zentralschule* in Chortitza, then *Gymnasium* for 2 years in Ekaterinoslav
Completed degree in Philology at the University of Moscow in 1900
Became teacher at the Chortitza *Zentralschule*
Appointed principal in 1905; taught especially in the field of education
Opened a 3-year teacher training school in 1913
Reconstructed the curriculum to suit the government criteria in 1920
Often given the title “Professor”
Had to withdraw from the school in 1929 when he affirmed that he believed in God
Arrested 8 September 1937, exiled in 1937, not heard from since
So: *Cities* Vol 2 pp 226-227; L N

Epp, Jakob

Teacher, from Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Epp, Jakob David

Born 1899; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; was secretary of the People’s Court
Arrested 7 September 1937 as a “member of a counter revolutionary organization”
Shot 11 June 1938; So: L N

Epp, Johann (Hans)

From Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; So: L N

Epp, Johann

Born 1898; from Reinfeld, then to Orloff, Sagrodovka, farmer
One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; died in prison; So: L N

Epp, Johann (Hans)

Lived in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown
Had wife Anna and 7 children; So: L N

Epp, Johann Gerhard

Born 1909; lived in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; brigadier on a kolkhoz

Arrested 7 December 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist propaganda"
Shot 7 February 1938; wife Aganeta (Rempel) and 5 children to South America; So: L N

Epp, Kornelius Gerhard

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Epp, Kornelius Jakob

Born 1907; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; farmer

Exiled to Urals in 1930; rearrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Epp, Nikolaus

From Petershagen, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Esau, Abram Abram

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Esau, Dietrich

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Esau, Johann Abram

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Esau, Peter

Born 1896; lived in Felsenbach, Borozenko; veterinarian; arrested 30 August 1937

Exiled to the Far East; So: L N

Ewert, Franz Peter

Lived in Hohendorf, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937; shot; So: L N

Ewert, Heinrich

Born 1894; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ewert, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1905; lived in Sparrau, Molotschna, "Kolkhoz Politoto"

Arrested 14 November 1937 for "conducting counter-revolutionary work against Soviet power"; shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Ewert, Johann

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; shot; So: L N

Ewert, Mr

Lived in Blumenort, Usman, Amur region; teacher; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Falk, Bernhard Wilhelm

Born 1909; lived in Zentral, Voronezh Oblast, then to Arkadak; bookkeeper;

Sentenced 25 February 1933 to 3 years; returned; rearrested in Arkadak 1937-1938

Fate unknown; So: L N

Falk, Jakob Jakob

Born 1910; lived in Hochfeld, resettled to Franzfeld, Yazykovo

Exile to Urals 1930; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Fast, Abram Abram

Born July 1906; lived in Orloff, Sagradovka; arrested December 1937 for "reading the Bible"

Exiled to labour camp; possibly died 14 February 1938; So: L N

Fast, Abram Jakob

Born 11 February 1911; lived in Blumenort, Molotschna

Exiled July 1931 to Nizhni-Tagil; rearrested in 1937; sentenced to 10 year exile

Died 13 December 1943; So: L N

Fast, Andrei (Heinrich) Peter

Born 1901, lived in Annenskoye, Neu Samara; worked for the “Tok Kolkhoz”

Arrested 13 August 1937; fate unknown; rehabilitated; So: L N

Fast, Aron

Born 1903; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Fast, August Jakob

Born 1892; lived in Berdyansk; arrested 16 August 1937; fate not known; rehabilitated

So: L N

Fast, David

Born 1904; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 20 June 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Fast, Dietrich

Born 1880; lived in Lindenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; released; to Poland on Great Trek

Repatriated to Urals; starved to death; So: L N

Fast, Fritz

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an “enemy of the people” died in exile

So: L N

Fast, Gerhard

Born 1906; lived in Neu-Chortitza, Baratov; farmer; arrested 1 February 1937

Exiled to the Far East; So: L N

Fast, Gerhard

Born 1881; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; shot in exile; So: L N

Fast, Heinrich

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Fast, Heinrich (father)

Lived in Wernersdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Fast (Fust), Heinrich

Moved from Neuland to Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; arrested 9 January 1937; exiled; So: L N

Fast, Heinrich Franz

Born 1897; lived in Dolinsk, Neu Samara; bookkeeper at the “Rosa Luxemburg Kolkhoz”

Machine Transport Station

Arrested 13 August 1937; shot?; So: L N

Fast, Heinrich Heinrich (son)

Lived in Wernersdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Fast, Jakob

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Fast (Fust), Johann

Born 1897; moved from Neuland to Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; kolkhoz chairman

Arrested 28 February 1937; exiled; did not return; So: L N

Fast, Johann Peter

Born 1912; lived in Annenskoye, Neu Samara; arrested 29 April 1937

Sentenced 10 September 1937; shot; So: L N

Fast, Johann Peter

Born 1912; lived in Kuterlya, Neu Samara; teacher; arrested 9 September 1937; fate unknown

Rehabilitated; So: L N

Fast, Kornelius

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Fast, Mr

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; teacher; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Fast, Nikolai Peter

Born 1909; lived in Annenskoye, Neu Samara

Worked for the "Tok Kolkhoz"

Arrested 13 August 1937; fate unknown; rehabilitated; So: L N

Fast, Peter

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people" died in exile
So: L N

Fast, Peter Peter

Born 1906; lived in Franzthal, Molotschna

Arrested 13 November 1937 for "conducting organized counter-revolutionary work"

Shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Fast, Peter Peter

Born 1884; lived in Annenskoye, Neu Samara;

Worked for the "Tok Kolkhoz"

Arrested 11 September 1937; fate unknown; rehabilitated; So: L N

Fast, Wilhelm Jakob

Born 1909; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; worker; arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Federau, Kornelius Salomon

Lived in Krassikov, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; died in captivity; So: L N

Fehr, Abram

Born 1892; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza

Arrested 25 June 1937; exiled to the far east; So: L N

Fehr, Abram Abram

Born 1883; lived in Kleefeld, Molotschna; worked at "Kolkhoz Bolshe"

Arrested 30 December 1937; sentenced to 10 year exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Flaming, Franz

Born about 1880; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 20 June 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Foth, Aron

Born 1891; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Fransen, Heinrich

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; So: L N

Fransen, Peter

Lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Frantz, Jakob

Lived in Sarona, Crimea; kolkhoz chairman; likely exiled to the Urals 27 March 1930

Arrested in the Urals December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Franz, David Johann

Born 28 December 1901; lived in Paulsheim, Molotschna; arrested 14 December 1937

Died in exile; So: L N

Franz, Dietrich Peter

Born 30 November 1882; lived in Liebenau, Molotschna; arrested 13 November 1937;
Presumed to have died in exile in May 1945; So: L N

Franz, Heinrich Jakob

Born 30 August 1907; lived in Liebenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Franz, Jakob Jakob

Born 1883; lived in Liebenau, Molotschna, worked at "Kolkhoz Dimitri"
Arrested 6 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalistic propaganda"
Sentenced to 10 years; died in exile; So: L N

Franz, Jakob Johann

Born 15 July 1875; lived in Schoenau, Alt Samara; peasant (farmer); arrested 24 April 1936
Released; arrested 27 December 1937; sentenced 29 December 1937; shot 19 February 1938
So: L N

Franz, Jakob K wife Lena (Peters)

Born 14 May 1884; lived in Liebenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938
Died in Siberia 1940; So: L N

Franzen, Jakob

Born 1888 in the Yazykovo Colony; married Sara P Gerbrandt (born 1890) in 1915
She died in Assanowo in 1916
Second wife Helena P Gerbrandt died in Solnzewka in 1937
Jakob died somewhere in the Gulag in 1937; So: family information

Friesen, Abram

Born 2 October 1885; lived in Liebenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Friesen, Abram

Lived in Nikolaidorf, Molotschna; resettled to Octoberfeld; exiled to Siberia; returned
Arrested in Stalino in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Abram

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Abram

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Abram Jakob

Born 1884; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka
One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December
They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days
Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman
Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.
Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Friesen, Aron

Born 1911; lived in Reinfeld, Sagra dovka; farmer; arrested 1937; exiled to Siberia; So: L N

Friesen, David

Born 1885; lived in Usilie, Caucasus; arrested 1937; exiled; released after 10 years; died 1951
So: L N

Friesen, Dietrich

Born 1908; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Elisabeth (Liese)

Born 1899; lived in Reinfeld, Sagra dovka

One of 2 women arrested in the village in 1937; both returned; So: L N

Friesen, Franz Jacob

Born 1910 in Rudnerweide, Molotschna ; wife Lilli Schmidt

Parents Jacob Friesen and Elisabeth Flaming

Arrested one night in December 1937:

Taken were brothers Jacob, Peter, Johann, Kornelius, Franz Friesen and brothers-in-law
Jacob Becker and Jacob Plett

Latest family information is that they were shot the day after their arrest

So: *Memories from My Life*, by Heinrich J Friesen pp 46, 153, 155

Friesen, Gerhard

Born 1909; lived in Reinfeld, Sagra dovka

Arrested in 1937, returned, then rearrested in 1941; So: L N

Friesen, Gerhard

Born ca 1891; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Gerhard Gerhard

Born 1889; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Arrested 27 December 1937; exiled; fate not known; So: L N

Friesen, Heinrich

From Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Friesen, Heinrich

Born 1885?; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Heinrich

Born 1882; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Friesen, Heinrich

Lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 20 December 1937; died in captivity; So: L N

Friesen, Isaak (Sr)

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Isaak (Jr)

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Isaak Isaak

Born 1912; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; carpenter

Arrested 26 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist fascist propaganda"

Shot 11 December 1937 in Dnepropetrovsk; So: L N

Friesen, Jakob

Born 1903; lived in Altona, Sagra dovka; farmer; arrested 27 November 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Friesen, Jakob

Born 1906; lived in Ebenfeld, Borozenko; farmer; arrested 1937; exiled to Komi, ASSR
So: L N

Friesen, Jakob

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938

Exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Jakob

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; teacher?; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Jakob Aron

Lived in Lichtfelde; fled to Donbas region; arrested there in 1937; fate not known; So: L N

Friesen, Jakob Aron

Age 53; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Friesen, Jacob Jacob

Born 1893 in Rudnerweide, Molotschna

Parents Jacob Friesen and Katharina Flaming

Wife Bertha Gross; children Walter (1930), Jacob (1931)

Arrested one night in December 1937:

Taken were brothers Jacob, Peter, Johann, Kornelius, Franz Friesen and brothers-in-law
Jacob Becker and Jacob Plett

Latest family information is that they were shot the day after their arrest

So: *Memories from My Life*, by Heinrich J Friesen pp 46, 153, 154

Friesen, Johann

Lived in Wernersdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile (1941?); So: L N

Friesen, Johann

Born 1898; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 30 June 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Johann

Born 1877; lived in Usilie, Caucasus; arrested 1937; died soon after; So: L N

Friesen, Johann

Born 1870; lived in Usilie, Caucasus; arrested 1937; shot within a month, in 1937; So: L N

Friesen, Johann

Born 1865; lived in Annenskoye, Neu Samara; blacksmith for the "Tok Kolkhoz"

Arrested 31 August 1937; fate unknown; rehabilitated; So: L N

Friesen, Johann

Lived in Donskoye, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Johann (Hans) Gerhard

Born 1919; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Arrested 1937; exiled; survived; died in Russia; So: L N

Friesen, Johann Isaak

Born 1908; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; chauffeur

Arrested 29 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary propaganda in favour of Germany"

Shot 1 December 1937; wife arrested on 20 October 1937; So: L N

Friesen, Mrs Johann Isaak

Lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; husband arrested

With 3 other women arrested on 20 October 1937

The women were taken to prison, their children to orphanages

She and her children later returned; So: L N

Friesen, Johann Jacob

Born 1907 in Rudnerweide, Molotschna

Parents Jacob Friesen and Elisabeth Flaming

Wife Mika Mathies; children Hella (1933), Johann (Hans) (1938)

Arrested one night in December 1937:

Taken were brothers Jacob, Peter, Johann, Kornelius, Franz Friesen and brothers-in-law Jacob Becker and Jacob Plett

Latest family information is that they were shot the day after their arrest

So: *Memories from My Life*, by Heinrich J Friesen pp 46, 153, 154

Friesen, Johann Johann

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Friesen, Kornelius

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 7 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Kornelius Franz

Age 40; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna, arrested in a store 1937-1938; So: L N

Friesen, Kornelius Jacob

Born 1914 in Rudnerweide, Molotschna

Parents Jacob Friesen and Elisabeth Flaming; wife Maria Martens

arrested one night in December 1937:

Taken were brothers Jacob, Peter, Johann, Kornelius, Franz Friesen and brothers-in-law Jacob Becker and Jacob Plett

Latest family information is that they were shot the day after their arrest

So: *Memories from My Life*, by Heinrich J Friesen pp 46, 155

Friesen, Mr

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Nikolai

Born ca 1899; lived in Dolinovka; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Nikolai Nikolai

Born 25 September 1908 in Rosenheim

Moved from Rosenheim to Yakovlevo

Arrested 1937; exiled to Kolymo gold mines; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Peter Cornelius

From Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; former kolkhoz chairman

Arrested 7 September 1937; So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 443

Friesen, Peter

Born 1893; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Peter

Born 1892; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 17 May 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Peter Heinrich

Born 28 September 1893; lived in Halbstadt, Molotschna; fled to Sivash

Arrested there in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Peter Isaak

Born 20 November 1903 in Rosenheim; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna

Arrested in 1937; died in exile

Wife arrested on 20 October 1937; So: L N

Friesen, Peter Isaak Mrs (Sara Hildebrandt)

Born in Platenhof; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; husband arrested

Sara arrested 20 October 1937; deported to Kazakhstan; So: L N

Friesen, Peter Jacob

Born 1898 in Rudnerweide, Molotschna

Parents Jacob Friesen and Elisabeth Flaming

Wife Lena Becker; children Rudy (1926), Jacob (1928), Lydia (1930)

Arrested one night in December 1937:

Taken were brothers Jacob, Peter, Johann, Kornelius, Franz Friesen and brothers-in-law

Jacob Becker and Jacob Plett

Latest family information is that they were shot the day after their arrest

So: *Memories from My Life*, by Heinrich J Friesen pp 46, 153, 154

Friesen, Peter Johann

Born 1891; lived in Melitopol; coachman for the Melitopol telephone central

Arrested 12 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary agitation"

Shot 27 February 1938; So: L N

Friesen, Peter Julius

Born 1895; lived in Waldheim, Molotschna; worker in Consumer Union

Arrested 6 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary fascist propaganda"

Sentenced to 8 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Friesen, Peter Peter

Born 1897; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo; kolkhoz electrician

Arrested 7 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary work among the German population"

Shot 27 November 1937; So: L N

Friesen, Mrs Peter

From Grossweide, Molotschna

With 3 other women arrested on 20 October 1937

The women were taken to prison, their children to orphanages

She and her children later returned; So: L N

Friesen, Regina Peter

Born 1900; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo; arrested 1937; sent to Germany; So: L N

Froese, Aron

Born 1902; lived in Felsenbach, Borozenko; farmer; arrested 30 August 1937; So: L N

Froese, Franz

Born 1903; lived in Felsenbach, Borozenko; farmer; arrested 29 October 1937; So: L N

Froese, Gerhard Heinrich

Born 1896; arrested 17 January 1937; sentenced 4 July 1937; died in exile 21 September 1941

Rehabilitated 1959; So: L N

Froese (Frese), Heinrich

Born 1882; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; fate unknown; So: L N

Froese, Heinrich

Lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 11 October 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Froese, Heinrich Johann (see biography p 217)

Born 29 January 1909; continued to live in Schoeneberg, Chortitza Colony

Bookkeeper for the kolkhoz

Married Maria Enns 18 October 1931; exiled to coal mines in Siberia 1932; returned 1934

Son Heinrich born 8 July 1935

One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

Also arrested were his brothers Johann and Jakob and brothers-in-law Abram Ens and Abram Rempel

Executed 25 November 1937 in Zaporozhye; rehabilitated 22 November 1966

Wife Maria and son Heinrich to Germany by train; refugee camp near Munich; to Paraguay on the "*Volendam*" in early 1947; then to Canada

So: Froese Family history; So: L N; German and Soviet Red Cross Communication 1991

Froese, Isaak

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; arrested 1 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Froese, Isaak

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin

Brother of Jakob Froese, who was also arrested

One of the 8 men arrested in the village 1 November 1937; altogether that year 26 men arrested in Gruenfeld; So: L N

Froese, Jakob

Born 1896; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza

One of 17 men taken in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Froese, Jakob

Born 1900; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; farmer; wife and 4 children

Arrested 14 July 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Froese, Jakob

Born 1903; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; married to Susanna Janzen; farmer

Arrested 1 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Froese, Jakob

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin

Brother of Isaak Froese, who was also arrested

One of the 8 men arrested in the village 1 November 1937; altogether that year 26 men arrested in Gruenfeld; So: L N

Froese, Jakob

Born 1880; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; returned 1947; died in Tjumen region 1977; So: L N

Froese, Jakob Jakob

Born 4 October 1907 in Zaporozhye

Married Maria Neufeld, who was born 8 September 1909

Arrested, likely June 1937, together with his father Jakob Kornelius Froese

Sentenced and shot in Rogdestvenko, probably June 1937, the same day as his father

Wife Maria died 9 June 1987 in Ekaterinoslav

So: Froese family history from Dr Harold Wiens

Froese, Jakob Johann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Froese, Jakob Johann Mrs

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Froese, Jakob Johann

Born 1893 in Schoeneberg; continued to live in Schoeneberg, Chortitza Colony

Wife Elisabeth: 5-6 children, among them Johann and Margaretha

One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

Also arrested were his brothers Johann and Heinrich and brothers-in-law Abram Ens and Abram Rempel

Executed 25 November 1937 in Zaporozhye; rehabilitated 6 December 1966

So: Froese Family history; German and Soviet Red Cross communication 1991

Froese, Jakob Kornelius

Born 18 May 1870 in Andreasfeld

Married Maria J Ens, who was born 30 June 1873

Arrested, likely in June 1937, together with his son Jakob Jakob Froese

Sentenced and shot in Rogdestvenko, probably June 1937, the same day as his son

Wife Maria stayed in Russia. She died in Siberia 24 April 1947, of starvation

So: Froese family history, from Dr Harold Wiens, grandson

Froese, Johann Johann

Born 1902 in Schoeneberg; continued to live in Schoeneberg, Chortitza Colony

One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

Also arrested were his brothers Heinrich and Jakob and brothers-in-law Abram Ens and Abram Rempel

Executed 25 November 1937 in Zaporozhye; rehabilitated 24 November 1966

So: Froese Family history; German and Soviet Red Cross communication 1991

Froese, Johann Johann

Born 1898; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Froese, Peter

Born 1880; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; miller

Arrested 8 September 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Froese, Peter

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937-1938 for refusing to work on Sundays

Returned after 2 years; So: L N

Funk, Abram Abram

Born 1907; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; construction worker

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Funk, Gerhard Heinrich

Born 1888; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza, secretary-treasurer

Arrested 8 August 1937 for "stressing practical assistance to German armies"

Shot 12 August 1937; So: L N

Funk, Heinrich

Born in 1898; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; minister; wife Katharina

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Funk, Heinrich

From Mariawohl, Molotschna

Arrested 28 November 1937 together with 5 other men; fate unknown; So: L N

Funk, Heinrich

Born 1913; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Funk, Heinrich

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Funk, Jakob Heinrich

Lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; bookkeeper; arrested in 1937(?); died in prison; So: L N

Funk, Johann

Born 1889; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza; minister

One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

Not heard from again; So: L N

Funk, Johann (Hans)

Born 1910; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka

Among 28 taken from the village in 1937, "enemy of the people"; fate unknown; So: L N

Funk, Johannes

Moved from Am Trakt to Ak Metchet in 1931; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Funk, Johann Abram

Born 1895; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; worker; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Funk, Johann (Hans) Gerhard

Born 1919; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo; arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Funk, Kornelius

Lived in Apostolovo; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Funk, Peter

Born 1906; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; electrician; father of Herta Derksen

Arrested 1 June 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Funk, Peter Abram

Born in 1909; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; construction worker

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Geddert, David

From Friedensfeld, Sagradovka

One of 18 men arrested in 1937

Taken to prison in Kronau, tortured; accused of "religious activities"

Exiled; he and Peter Voth eventually returned; So: L N

Geddert, Heinrich

Born 1885; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown: So: L N

Giedt, Alexander

Born 1886; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; farmer; one of 26 men arrested in the village

He was arrested 6 September 1937; fate unknown

His wife Elisabeth Matthies was also arrested, 16 November, but was released about 3 months later, early 1938; So: L N

Giedt, Elisabeth (nee Matthies)

Born 20 May 1888; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin

Husband was one of 26 men arrested in the village

With 8 other women, she was arrested 16 November 1937; children put into orphanages

Was released after 3 months, early in 1938, thought to be as a result of the intervention of Nadezhda Krupskaya

So: L N

Giesbrecht, Abram

Born 1904; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Giesbrecht, Abram (son)

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Giesbrecht, Bernhard

Lived in Lindenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown ; So: L N

Giesbrecht, Bernhard

Lived in Lidyevka, Arkadak; dekulakized, then arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Giesbrecht, Bernhard Jakob

Born 1900; lived in Lidyevka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Giesbrecht, Ewald

Born 1903; lived in Orloff, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Giesbrecht, Franz Peter

Born 1895; moved from Lichtenau, Molotschna to Melitopol; worked at Vorovsk factory

Arrested 4 September 1937 for "counter revolutionary agitation among workers"

Shot 17 October 1937; So: L N

Giesbrecht, Jakob

Born 1877; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 28 December 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Giesbrecht, Johann Johann (see biography p 219)

Born 31 March 1908 in Halbstadt, Molotschna

Eldest of seven children of Johann Giesbrecht and Anna Goossen

Father Johann, manager of a credit union, was arrested and jailed and exiled in 1931

Several months after Johann's imprisonment the family was expelled from their home in Lichtenau

Family fled to Melitopol, walking, taking only what they could carry and one cow

After a year they moved to Kamenka, then crossed the Dniepr to Nikopol.

Father Johann completed his sentence in 1936 and returned to his family

Son Johann was arrested in September 1937, accused of sabotage, wanting to blow up the elevator terminal he was working in

He was married, wife Maria Doerksen, one son Waldemar

Never heard from again, probably shot

Father Johann, Anna and most of the children eventually reached Canada

So: L N; Harry Giesbrecht, brother of Johann, personal information

Giesbrecht, Johann

Born 1918; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 14 June 1937; returned after

18 years; So: L N

Giesbrecht, Mr (father)

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Goertzen, Jakob Jakob

From Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; wife Luba Dick had died 6 months previously; no children

Arrested 5 September 1937; So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 443

Goertzen, Jakob Kornelius

From Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna

Arrested 13 December 1937, accused of "busying himself with anti-Soviet agitation in support of fascist Germany"

Executed 7 February 1938; So: L N

Goertzen, Johann A

Lived in Wernersdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Goerz, Georg

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Goerz, Johann

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Goerz, Peter

Born 28 October 1899; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; wood worker

Arrested 15 December 1937; never heard from again; So: L N

Goerzen, Heinrich

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; minister; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Goerzen, Heinrich

Born 1882; lived in Usilie, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile in 1939; So: L N

Goerzen, Jakob

Born 1910; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested in 1937- 1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Goerzen, Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Goerzen, Jakob

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; minister; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Goerzen, Jakob Jakob

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 5 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Goerzen, Jakob Kornelius

Born 1904; lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; technician

Arrested 13 December 1937 for "anti-Soviet activity" executed 7 February 1937; So: L N

Goerzen, Johann

Lived in Paulshein, Molotschna; minister; arrested 1937; died in prison

Wife and children to Paraguay, then Canada; So: L N

Goerzen, Johann

Born 1893; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 19 September 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Goerzen Johann

Born 1909; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 16 November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Goerzen, Johann David

Age 46; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937; So: L N

Goerzen Katharina

Lived in Krassikov, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; survived, returned after 10 years; So: L N

Goerzen, Nikolai Dietrich

Born 6 November 1889 in Schoenwiese, Chortitza

Parents Dietrich Dietrich Goerzen and Maria Nikolai Dyck
Married Lena Fast 1 October 1925; he was banished 15 December 1937
Lena evacuated 30 September 1941
So: *Cities* Vol 2 p 24

Goerzen, Peter

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna ; arrested 5 September 1937, together with 2 others
Wife Susanna Thiessen was pregnant at the time, and gave birth to a daughter in November
Fate unknown; So: L N

Goerzen, Peter Johann

Born 1891; lived in Margenau, Molotschna; kolkhoznik
Arrested 9 September 1937 for "organized counter-revolutionary propaganda"
Exiled for 10 years; fate unknown; So: L N

Goerzen, Theodor

Lived in Vyazenskoye, Arkadak; teacher?; arrested 1937; survived; released in 1956; So: L N

Goetz, Peter

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Goossen, Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Goossen, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1896; lived in Podolsk, Neu Samara; representative of the department of roads
Arrested 31 August 1937; died in captivity; rehabilitated; So: L N

Goossen, Johann

From Wernersdorf, Molotschna; one of 37 men arrested in Wernersdorf 1937-1938; So: L N

Graewe, Isaak

Born 1897; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; secretary; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Grunau, Abram Abram

Born 1916; lived in Burwalde, Chortitza; shift supervisor
Arrested 4 November 1937; executed 26 December 1937; So: L N

Grunau, Johann

Born 1899; lived in Burwalde, Chortitza
Arrested in the autumn of 1937; exiled to unknown place; died; So: L N

Guenter, Franz I

Born 1884; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka
One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Guenter, Isaak

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Guenter, Isaak

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Guenter, Jakob Jakob

Born 1902, lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza; collectivist
One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937
Never heard from again; So: L N

Hahn, Abram Kornelius

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hamm, Anna (nee Koop)

See story of her husband, Gerhard Christian Hamm

Born 14 August 1892; daughter of Peter A Koop

Arrested after her husband, Gerhard Christian Hamm had been arrested and executed in 1937

Arrested 11 October 1937; sentenced to five years exile in Karaganda

After completion of her sentence she had to stay in the region another ten years because she was German

In 1956 she was rehabilitated but not allowed to her home town

In 1962, after considerable difficulties, she was able to join her daughter in Canada

Here she enjoyed good health, good fellowship, and died 15 July 1978 in Winnipeg

So: Marguerita Bergmann, personal family history

Hamm, Bernhard

Born 1898; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown So: L N

Hamm, David Jakob

Born 1882; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hamm, Dietrich

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Hamm, Gerhard Christian (see biography p 221)

Born 22 April 1883 in Chortitza, Chortitza Colony

From 1905-1907 studied at a technical institute in Germany

In 1909 started to work in the A J Koop Factory in Schoenwiese as design engineer

Married Katharina Rempel: children Christian (1916), Katharina (1918)

Wife Katharina and daughter Katharina died of typhus in 1920

Married Anna Koop 9 July 1923: daughter Marguerita

Continued with the factory when it was nationalized and combined with other factories; then called Factory Communar

1923 awarded golden watch for outstanding performance

In 1929, with Peter Dyck, Kornelius Pauls and others developed the first harvester combine built in the Soviet Union

Factory and deserving workers, including Gerhard, received the Order of Lenin 3 September 1931 for this achievement

On 8 April 1937, eleven leading people from the factory were arrested and jailed in Dnepropetrovsk. Gerhard specifically accused of playing a part in a "counter-revolutionary diversion operation"

For some time Anna was able to visit him every week to bring him food and clean underwear

Sentenced on 16 September, executed 17 September 1937 in Dnepropetrovsk

On 6 May 1958 he was declared rehabilitated

Gerhard's picture is now displayed on the "Pyramid of Death" in the Dmitri Yavornitski Historical Museum, Dnepropetrovsk

So: Marguerita Bergmann, daughter, personal family information; *Cities Vol 2*, pp 24, 50, 53, 54; L N

Hamm, Heinrich David

Born 1903; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; office worker; arrested in 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Hamm, Heinrich Kornelius

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hamm, Jakob Abram

Born 1908; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Arrested in 1937; sentenced to 7 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Hamm, Jakob David

Born 1895; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; machinist; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hamm, Peter Abram

Born 1915; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo; arrested in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Hamm, Peter Jakob

Born 1887; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hamm, Peter Peter

Born 1879; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; appointed official

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hammer, Sophie (Sonja)

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; widow

Arrested 10 September 1937, along with 5 men

She was released after serving 9 years; So: L N

Harder, Abram Abram

Born 1905; lived in Podolsk, Neu Samara; kolkhoznik; arrested 13 August 1937

Died in captivity; rehabilitated; So: L N

Harder, Abram Jakob

Born 1911; lived in Lichtfelde, Molotschna, "Kolkhoz Klara"

Arrested 5 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary anti-Soviet agitation"

Sentenced to 8 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Bernhard

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Bernhard Peter

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, David Jakob

Born 30 November 1911; lived in Friedensruh/Kleefeld, Molotschna

Together with 8 other men arrested on 30 October 1937

Harder was married 27 June 1937; he was shot 30 November 1937 in Melitopol

Harder's wife was pregnant at the time of his arrest; her son was born 4 June 1938

She taught and worked in various villages - Kleefeld, Alexanderkrone

1941 she and son deported to Kazakhstan; 1942 into labour camp; So: L N

Harder, Franz Jakob

Born 1907; went from Rosenort to Lichtenau, Molotschna; bookkeeper

Arrested 17 October 1937 for "participating in a counter-revolutionary organization"

Shot 30 November 1937; So: L N

Harder, Gerhard Jakob

Parents Jakob Harder (1858) and Maria Hildebrandt (1857)

Lived in Lichtfelde, Molotschna; farmer; married and had children; arrested in 1937; brother

Jakob arrested in 1937, brother Johann in 1938; one of Gerhard's children, Jascha, was taken in

by a Russian family and survived, the others starved to death; Jascha now lives in Hamburg, Germany; So: Maria Leininger (nee Harder), Germany and Susan Enns, Winnipeg

Harder, Heinrich Kornelius

Born 1896; lived in Usilie, Caucasus; arrested 1937; letter from prison 10 December 1937

Died soon after that; So: L N

Harder, Jakob

Born 1904; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Jakob Jakob

Parents Jakob Harder(1858) and Maria Hildebrandt (1857)

Lived in Lichtfelde, Molotschna; farmer; married, had children; arrested in 1937; brother

Gerhard arrested in 1937, brother Johann in 1938; So: Maria Leininger (nee Harder), Germany and Susan Enns, Winnipeg

Harder, Jakob Martin

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Jakob Peter

Born 1892; originally from Neuenburg, then lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; accountant for the Kosum General Store of the village of Chortitza

Arrested 3 July 1937 for "being a member of a German counter-revolutionary organization"

Sentenced 15 December 1937; shot 27 December 1937; place of burial not known

Rehabilitated 24 July 1989

So: So: L N; family documentation

Harder, Johann

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Johann

Lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Johann

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested July 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Klaas

Lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Kornelius Johann

Lived in Tche-Tche, Crimea; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Martin Martin (Jr)

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Mr

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Peter

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Harder, Peter Peter

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Harms, Abram Kornelius

Born 1902; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; agent

Resettled to Burwalde, Chortitza in February 1930

Rearrested 4 November 1937 as "member of a German fascist organization"

Shot 27 December 1937; So: L N

Harms, Gerhard

Born 1899; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Causaus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Harms, Gustav Gerhard

Born 1881; lived in Zaporozhye; carpenter in flour mill

Arrested 20 December 1937 for "conducting counter-revolutionary agitation and wrecking"

Shot 13 February 1938; So: L N

Harms, Jakob

Born 1892; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Harms, Jakob

Born 1911; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; arrested 16 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Harms, Jakob

Born ca 1896; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested 1937?; fate unknown; So: L N

Harms, Peter

Lived in Dnepropetrovsk; arrested 16 December 1937; exiled to Siberia; So: L N

Harms, Peter Gerhard

Born 1890; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; appointed official

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Harms, Peter Kornelius

Born 1911; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza; mechanic

Arrested 26 November 1937 for "participating in counter revolutionary organization"

Shot 9 January 1938; So: L N

Heese, Johann

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; teacher; no wife or children

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown

So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Heide, Heinrich

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Heidebrecht, Abram

Born 1896; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Heidebrecht, Daniel

Lived in Halbstadt, Molotschna; fled to Sivash; arrested there in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Heidebrecht Gerhard

Born 1891; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Heidebrecht, Heinrich

Lived in Halbstadt, Molotschna; fled to Sivash; arrested there in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Heidebrecht, Jakob

Lived in Halbstadt, Molotschna; fled to Sivash; arrested there in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Heidebrecht, Peter

Born 1879; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hein, Heinrich Jakob

Born 1874; lived in Mariental, Alt Samara

Arrested 15 June 1934; sentenced to 3 years

Returned; arrested 23 December 1937; sentenced 29 December 1937

Executed 19 February 1938; rehabilitated; So: L N

Hein, Kornelius Johann

Lived in Annenskoye, Neu Samara; arrested 1937 in Millerovo; fate unknown; wife was deported to Kazakhstan; So: L N

Heinrichs, Franz

Lived in Klinok, Neu Samara; arrested likely 1937; sentenced to 5 years exile, but actually shot; So: L N

Heinrichs, Hermann Woldemar

Born 1905; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; electrician

Arrested 4 November 1937 for "activity conducting counter-revolutionary work"

Shot 27 December 1937; So: L N

Heinrichs, Isaak

Born 1894; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; writer

Arrested 15 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Heinrichs, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1896; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; appointed official

Arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Heinrichs, Jakob Jakob

Born 1890, lived in Kleefeld, Molotschna; "Kolkhoz Bolshe"

Arrested 3 December 1937 for "anti-Soviet activity;" sentenced to 10 years exile; So: L N

Heinrichs, Johann Johann

Born 1908; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Heinrichs, Johann Kornelius

Born 1897; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; appointed official

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Heinrichs, Kornelius

Born 1872; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; farmer

Arrested 27 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Heinrichs Kornelius Kornelius

Born 1913; moved from Chortitza to Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Arrested 5 November 1937 for "organized activity fighting Soviet power, also sabotage"

Shot 26 November 1937; So: L N

Heinrichs, Peter

From Tchongrav, Crimea; one of 17 men arrested 30 January 1937

Imprisoned in Simferopol; some of the men came back, but not Peter

So: Mary Klassen, Winnipeg

Heinrichs, Peter Kornelius

Born 1891; lived in Podolsk, Neu Samara; arrested likely 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hiebert, Franz Franz

Born 1912; moved from Lichtenau to Altona; kolkhoznik; dekulakized 1929-1930

Arrested in Altona 16 December 1937 for "participating in a counter-revolutionary German organization" shot 5 December 1938; So: L N

Hiebert, Rudolf Karl

Born 24 February 1885; lived in Kubyshev; kolkhoznik; arrested 28 November 1937

Sentenced 2 December 1937; shot 27 January 1938; rehabilitated; So: L N

Hildebrand, David

Lived in Wernersdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; released after 1½ years
Mobilized into Labour Army; died there; So: L N

Hildebrand, Heinrich Gerhard

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled to Kolyma gold mines; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrand, Heinrich Jakob

Born 1900; lived in Hierschau/Vladovka (Waldheim); carpenter in the Stulnevo Station

Arrested 22 October 1937 for “conducting anti-Soviet agitation”

Shot 23 November 1937; So: L N

Hildebrand, Isaak

Born 1878; lived in Rosengart, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 27 August 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrand, Jakob

Born 1871; lived in Rosengart, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 8 September 1937; died in exile 31 December 1940; So: L N

Hildebrand, Jakob

Born 1883; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrand, Jakob

Born 1905; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Hildebrand Mr

Lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 20 December 1937; “died in captivity” So: L N

Hildebrandt, Abram Isaak

Born 13 October 1898; lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown So: L N

Hildebrandt, David

From Wernersdorf, Molotschna

One of 37 men arrested in Wernersdorf in 1937-1938; So: L N

Hildebrandt, David Peter

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, David Peter

Born 1891; lived in Waldheim, Molotschna; stable man at “Kolkhoz Glinokop”

Arrested 7 September 1937; sentenced to 8 years exile; fate not known (shot?); So: L N

Hildebrandt, Dietrich Dietrich

Born 9 September 1911; lived in Lidyevka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; sentenced 1938 to

7 years; died in exile; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Dietrich Isaak

Born 19 August 1901; lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; worked in Chortitza as an engineer;

Arrested 1937; shot in prison in Kiev in 1938; So: L N

Hildebrandt Franz

Born 1891; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Franz Peter

Born 1891; lived in Landskrone, Molotschna; arrested 14 November 1937 for “anti-Soviet

agitation among the collective farm workers;” shot 14 January 1938; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Heinrich

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; driven from home 1929-1933; arrested 1937-1938; exiled;
Fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Heinrich Bernhard

Born 1884; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; office worker; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Heinrich David

Born 1890; lived in Mariawohl, Molotschna, "Kolkhoz Avtod"

Arrested 30 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist fascist propaganda"

Sentenced to 10 years in exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 9 July 1896 in Paganovka; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna

Arrested 1937; exiled to the north; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Heinrich Isaak

Born 23 October 1893; lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Isaak

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown

Brother of Peter; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Isaak Isaak

Born 23 January 1885; lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; deacon; resettled March 1930
into a kulak settlement; arrested there 1937; exiled; died 27 May 1942; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Jakob

Moved from Friedensdorf to Hierschau, Molotschna; arrested in Hierschau 1937-1938;
Fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Jakob Daniel

Born 1871; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; watchman for the "Kolkhoz Yezhov"

Arrested 7 November 1937 as "member of a counter-revolutionary nationalist organization"

Shot 26 November 1937; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Jakob Franz

Born in 1898 in Platenhof; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna

Arrested 1937; died in exile in Siberia; So: L N

Hildebrandt Jakob Gerhard

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Jakob Heinrich

Born 2 February 1895; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna

Arrested in 1937; exiled; fate not known; wife Maria also arrested; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1902; moved from Fuerstenwerder to Friedensdorf; carpenter

Arrested 5 December 1937 for "recruiting insurrectional personnel"

Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Jakob Peter (son of Peter Hildebrandt of Fuerstenwerder)

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Johann

Born 1896; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; returned

Deported 14 September 1941; died in Tjumen region 1942; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Johann

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Johann Johann

Born 1908; lived in Lidjevka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; executed; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Maria

From Grossweide, Molotschna

Husband Jakob Hildebrandt; 4 children

With 3 other women arrested on 20 October 1937

The women were taken to prison, their children to orphanages

She and her children later returned, except for 1 daughter, **Liese Hildebrandt**

Maria and 3 children deported to Kazakhstan; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Nikolai Heinrich

Born 1908 in Paganovka; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna

Arrested in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Nikolai Nikolai

Born in Platenhof; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna

Arrested in 1937; exiled; died in exile; So: L N

Hildebrandt Peter

Born 1877; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Peter (father of Jakob Peter Hildebrandt)

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Peter

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown

Brother of Isaak; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Peter Dietrich

Born 1887; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; kolkhoznik

Arrested 4 November 1937 as "member of a counter-revolutionary insurrectionist organization"
shot 27 December 1937; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Peter Nikolai

Born 14 November 1937 in Platenhof; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna

Arrested 1937; exiled; died in exile; So: L N

Hildebrandt, Peter Peter

Born in 1910; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, in the summer; not heard from again; So: L N

Hoeppner, Johann (Hans)

Born 1910; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hooge, Heinrich

Born 1894; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hooge, Isaak Peter

Born 2 March 1894 in Nikopol; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested 3 November 1937 as "member of a counter-revolutionary diversional organization"

Shot 27 December 1937; So: L N

Hooge, Jakob

Born 1902, lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Hooge, Johann

From Wernersdorf, Molotschna; one of 37 men arrested in Wernersdorf in 1937-1938; So: L N

Huebert, Abram

Born 1911; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Huebert, Abram Johann (see picture p 265)

Born 3 May 1887 in Blumstein, Molotschna

Parents Johann Nikolai Huebert and Katharina Toews

Parents moved to Muensterberg 1894 to establish a milling industry

Became quite involved in the "Hamm and Huebert" business

Worked as an assembler of harvest equipment, also a machinist in the father's mill

Married Sophie Neuwirt in 1914; 7 children: Rudolf, Hilda, Emmy, Johann (Hans), Emilie,

Heinrich, Rudolf (the first one died early)

At first lived in Halbstadt, then back to Muensterberg when "Hamm and Huebert" dissolved

Two children died of typhus in 1921

With collectivization, the family lost its property

Family moved to the Konosawod settlement about 1933, joining his brother Heinrich and his family

1937 arrested, together with brothers Heinrich, Jacob, Johann and many others

Sent into exile, and not heard from again

So: *The Muensterberg Hueberts*, pp 323, 357-358

Huebert, Dietrich

Born 1885; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; blacksmith; had wife and child

Arrested 5 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Huebert, Dietrich

Lived in Wernersdorf, Molotschna; had been in the Red Army 1924-1926

Arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Huebert, Elisabeth Peter (see pictures p 265)

Born 28 August 1885; parents Peter P Janzen and Anna Kroeker from the Crimea

Baptized and accepted into the Mennonite Brethren Church

In 1904 married Johann Johann Huebert: 5 children, 4 girls, 1 boy

Lived in Temir, Crimea

1914-1917 Johann was in the *Sanitaetsdienst* at a field hospital in Kurman-Kemeltschuck, Crimea, 14 km from home

In 1929 sold everything and tried to obtain exit visas in Moscow

Not successful, so returned to Spat, where they rented a house

In 1937 Johann, Elisabeth and a daughter were sent into exile

Johann wrote one letter from exile Elisabeth and daughter had starved to death

So: *The Muensterberg Hueberts* pp 323, 338-339

Huebert, Franz

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; further fate unknown; So: L N

Huebert, Heinrich Johann (see biography p 223)

Born 6 March 1883 in Blumstein, Molotschna

Eighth child of mill owner Johann Nikolai Huebert of Muensterberg

Married Elisabeth Janzen in 1922: children Heinrich and Johann

Arrested in 1930, exile in Koltas, released in October 1933

Joined his family in the Konosawod settlement

Arrested 5 August 1937, together with many others, including his brothers Abram, Jacob, Johann and sent into exile

Died 18 May 1940, presumably in exile

So: L N; *The Muensterberg Hueberts*, p 323, 353-355

Huebert, Jakob

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; driven from home 1929-1933; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; Further fate unknown; So: L N

Huebert, Jakob Jakob

Born 1892; moved from Eichenfeld to Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

Parents murdered in Eichenfeld; he was arrested 1929; released

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; probably shot; So: L N

Huebert, Jacob Johann (see picture p 265)

Born 24 March 1881 in Blumstein, Molotschna

Son of Johann Nikolai Huebert and Katharina Toews

When the family moved to Muensterberg in 1894, he operated the family windmill

Converted, baptized and became a member of the Mennonite Brethren Church

Married Anna Janzen in 1905: 6 children, 4 boys 2 girls

In 1909 moved to Kitai Crimea, where they stayed until 1918, then to Temir

In 1924 to Muensterberg, Molotschna, where father and much of his family lived

On 28 August 1932 disenfranchised, moved to Spat, Crimea to stay with Anna's brother

Arrested in Spat 6 December 1932, released 20 March 1933

In the autumn of 1935 secretly moved to Melitopol where he took any type of employment

Arrested 4 September 1937, not even allowed to say farewell

Brothers Abram, Heinrich and Johann also arrested in 1937

Letter arrived in August 1938, telling family that he was being sent to an island where there would be no postal connection. He wrote "Many are dead. Am happy in the Lord. Pray for me that I might die."

Not heard from since. Wife Anna made it to Germany and to Canada

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I p 284; *The Muensterberg Hueberts* pp 329, 347-349

Huebert, Johann Johann (see pictures p 265)

Born 12 February 1877 in Blumstein, Molotschna

Parents Johann Nikolai Huebert and Katharina Toews

In 1894 the family moved to Muensterberg, established a mill

In 1898 entered *Forstei* service at the Alt-Berdyansk station

Baptized and accepted into the Mennonite Brethren Church

In 1904 married Elisabeth Janzen: 5 children, 4 girls, 1 boy

Lived in Temir, Crimea

1914-1917 in the *Sanitaetsdienst* at a field hospital in Kurman-Kemeltschuck, Crimea, 14 km from their home

Contracted small pox and sent home

In 1929 sold everything and tried to obtain exit visas in Moscow

Not successful, so returned to Spat, where they rented a house

Arrested and sent into exile in 1937, also wife Elisabeth and a daughter
Brothers Abram, Heinrich and Jakob also arrested in 1937
Johann wrote one letter from exile. Wife and daughter had starved to death
Not heard from since

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I p 284; *The Muensterberg Hueberts* pp 323, 338-339

Huebert, Kornelius Kornelius

Born 12 November 1907; lived in Muensterberg, Molotschna
Arrested three times, the last time in 1937; exiled to the north; fate unknown; So: L N

Huebert, Maria (Bergen)

From Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; wife of Jakob Peter Huebert; he was arrested in 1937
She was also arrested in 1937, then released in February 1938
She eventually reached Canada; So: L N

Huebert, Mr

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1936 as an "enemy of the people" died in exile
So: L N

Huebert, Nikolai Heinrich (see biography p 225)

Born 5 September 1905 on estate Steintal, Ekaterinoslav; family moved to Tchongrav, Crimea
Wife Elisabeth Koop; 3 children, Maria, Louise, Nikolai
Men ordered to report to Simferopol 30 January 1937; all arrested and imprisoned
Total of 17 men taken from Tchongrav that day; several of them, including Franz Klassen
and Gerhard Toews, came back after a few days
Nikolai imprisoned in Simferopol; his family saw him on a number of occasions after his
imprisonment
He did see his infant daughter Agnes, who was born 23 April 1937
Sent away, possibly in June; family heard that he was exiled for 7-10 years, to north of
Vladivostok, Okhotsk
Wife wrote a letter to him about a year later; it was returned; said he had died,
in Dalnivistok
So: Personal information from his daughter, Mary Klassen of Winnipeg

Huebert, Peter

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Huebert, Peter

Born 1900; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; survived, later died in Siberia
So: L N

Huebert Peter David (see biography p 226)

Born 16 November 1898 in Margenau, Molotschna
Elementary school and *Zentralschule* education
Drafted into the *Forstei*, then into the White Army
Imprisoned in Poland, but eventually home
Studied bookkeeping
Converted, baptized and joined the Mennonite Brethren Church
Married Liese Voth of Alexanderthal; had three daughters, Martha, Anna, Helena
Unable to leave for Canada because of trachoma in the family
Worked in the church, especially with the youth

Arrested in 1937; exiled; possibly died in 1942, likely in exile
Liese and three daughter evacuated to Kazakhstan
So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 109, Personal Huebert Family information

Huebert, Peter Franz

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Huebert, Peter Jakob

Born 21 April 1912 in Kirai, Crimea; had brother Johann
Married Maria Bergen 21 January 1934; she came from Alexanderkrone, Molotschna
One daughter Helene born 21 January 1935
Lived in Gnadenfeld; arrested in 1937, and never seen again
His wife Maria was also arrested in 1937, released in February 1938
Maria, her daughter Helene and mother-in-law eventually to Clearbrook, BC
Maria died 1 February 1996; So: L N; Huebert family notes

Huebner, Abram

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people" died in exile
So: L N

Huebner, Jakob

Born about 1880; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 30 June 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Huebner, Peter (Sr)

Lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; dekulakized in 1930; returned
Among 28 taken from the village in 1937; "enemies of the people" fate unknown; So: L N

Isaak, Abram

Born 1905; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; worker; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Isaak, Abram

Born 1908; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 11 December 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Issak, Abram

Born 30 June 1910; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; farmer
One of 16 men from the village who were arrested in 1937; shot in 1937; So: L N

Isaak, Franz

Went from Gnadenfeld to Orloff, Sagradovka; lived in a watchman's hut
One of the 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Isaak, Gerhard

Lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko, moved to Dnepropetrovsk; arrested in Dnepropetrovsk;
Died, likely in exile; So: L N

Isaak, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1884; lived in Orloff, Sagradovka; arrested 1931, returned in 1933
One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; returned in 1938; So: L N

Isaak, Jakob Abram

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Isaak, Jakob Jakob II

Born 1907; lived in Neuenburg, Chortitza
Was originally arrested 1933, and returned 20 April 1937

Rearrested 23 November 1937; sentenced to 10 years exile in the Amur region
Died 1940 in Komsomolsk; So: L N

Isaak, Johann

Born 1903; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Isaak, Julius Karl

Born 12 January 1872; lived in Studenil Kliuch; farmer; arrested 14 November 1937

Sentenced 2 December 1937; executed; rehabilitated; So: L N

Isaak, Mr

Lived in Gnadental, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Isaak, Peter

Born 1904; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; worker; arrested 11 November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Isaak, Theodor Julius

Born 14 July 1899; lived in Studenil Kliuch; arrested 23 October 1937

Sentenced 2 December 1937; executed; rehabilitated; So: L N

Janke, Albert Johann

Born 1889; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; worker; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Jantz, Abram Abram

Lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko, then to Annovka; arrested September 1937; likely exiled

Died ; So: L N

Jantz, Jakob Abram

Born 1893; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Jantz, Johann Abram

Born 1909; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; fate unknown; So: L N

Jantz, Paul Abram

Born 4 February 1895; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; exiled to Sverdiovsk region in 1931

Arrested 15 December 1937; shot and buried in a mass grave near Sverdiovsk; So: L N

Janz, Heinrich

Born 1887; lived in Usilie, Caucasus; arrested 1937; died 1 January 1942; So: L N

Janz, Heinrich T

Elder of the Mennonite Church in Landskrone, Molotschna

Disenfranchised, moved to Tokmak and later to Caucasus

Arrested in Piatogorsk, likely 10 March 1937

Along with 3 others sentenced to death

Sentence commuted to 10 years in Siberia, exiled to Krasnoyarsk

After his sentencing Janz made a long speech, testifying to his faith

28 others also arrested at the same time, receiving sentences of 3-8 years

Wife and sister-in-law deported to Kazakhstan in 1941

So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 117-118, 292-294

Janz, Jakob

Lived in Apostolovo; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janz, Jakob H

Married Katharina Koop on 22 May 1910; had a daughter who died in childhood

Worked for Koop and Hoelker in Schoenwiese, Chortitza; exiled in 1937

Wife Katharina died in Asiatic Russia in 1961

So: *Cities Vol 2* p 36; So: L N

Janz, Katharina (nee Koop)

Born 29 January 1888; lived in Schoenwiese, Chortitza; married to Jakob H Janz

Arrested in 1937, exiled to Kazhakstan for 5 years; released after war; died; So: L N

Janzen, Abraham

From Tchongrav, Crimea

One of 17 men arrested 30 January 1937; imprisoned in Simferopol

Some returned, but Abraham never did; So: Mary Klassen, Winnipeg

Janzen, Abram

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Abram

Lived in Steinfeld, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; executed; So: L N

Janzen, Abram Abram

Born 1884; lived in Podolsk, Neu Samara; arrested 11 September 1937; died in captivity

Rehabilitated; So: L N

Janzen, Abram Benjamin

Born 1898; lived in Podolsk, Neu Samara; arrested 31 August 1937; died in captivity

Rehabilitated; So: L N

Janzen, Abram Heinrich

Born 2 January 1912 in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka

Married Anna Isaak Harms in 1931. She was born 1911

Three children, one of which survived, daughter Anna

Abram was truck driver for "Kolkhos Progress"

Arrested the night of 2 December 1937

By verdict of the NKVD judiciary and the Procurator of the USSR (probably a Troika),
sentenced to be shot

Not sure when this was done, but file states "Deleted 26 January 1938"

Another record says he died of cancer in prison 2 April 1945

Wife Anna and daughter Anna came to Germany on the Great Trek in 1943, but were
repatriated to Kazakhstan in 1945; wife Anna died 1995; So: L N

Janzen, Abram Johann

Age 46; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Janzen, Abram Martin

Born 1884; lived in Rosenort, Molotschna; carpenter

Arrested 15 December 1937 for "anti-Soviet agitation against Soviet authority"

Shot 7 February 1938; So: L N

Janzen, Abram Paul

Born 1901; lived in Burwalde, Chortitza; oven mason

Arrested 4 November 1937 for "systematic conduct of work against Soviet power"

Shot 28 December 1937; So: L N

Janzen Abram Wilhelm

Born 1890; lived in Podolsk, Neu Samara; arrested 8 October 1937; died in captivity

Rehabilitated; So: L N

Janzen, Bernhard

Born 1901; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Bernhard Johann

Born 1898; lived Hindenburg, Kudashevka; farmer; arrested in 1937; exiled north; So: L N

Janzen, Boris

Born 1887; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; farmer; arrested 30 January 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Janzen, Boris B

Lived in Hohendorf, Aulie Ata; arrested in 1937; survived, and returned home; So: L N

Janzen, David

From Tchongrav, Crimea

Together with total of 17 men arrested the night of 30 January 1937

Taken to prison in Simferopol; returned home after a few days

So: Mary Klassen, Winnipeg

Janzen, David

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, David

Lived in Mariental, Alt Samara; exiled to Arkhangelsk 30 March 1930; arrested 1937

Died in prison; So: L N

Janzen, David

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Janzen, David W

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Dietrich

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Dietrich

From Am Trakt to Ak Metchet in 1931; arrested there 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Franz

Born 1892; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Franz

Born 1900; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; farmer; deacon

Arrested 27 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Franz

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Franz Jakob

Born 1891; lived in Blumengart, Chortitza; arrested 5 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Georg

Born 1918; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 14 June 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen Gerhard B

Lived in Hohendorf, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937; survived and returned home; So: L N

Janzen, Gerhard Gerhard

Lived in Mariental, Alt Samara

Exiled to Arkhangelsk 30 March 1930; arrested 1937

Died in prison; So: L N

Janzen, Heinrich

Born 1875; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Heinrich

Born 1902; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested 30 January 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Janzen Heinrich

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown ; So: L N

Janzen, Heinrich

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown ; So: L N

Janzen, Heinrich

Born 1910; lived in Hindenburg, Kudashevka; farmer; arrested in 1937; exiled north; So: L N

Janzen, Heinrich

Lived in Schoenau, Alt Samara; exiled to Arkhangelsk 30 March 1930; arrested 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Heinrich

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Janzen, Heinrich Jakob

Born 1899; lived in Blumengart, Chortitza; choir conductor

Arrested 5 September 1937; never heard from again; So: L N

Janzen, Heinrich Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; mechanic in the large Dyck mill; arrested 1937; fate unknown;
So: L N

Janzen, Heinrich Johann

Born 1871; lived in Dolinsk, Neu Samara; minister; arrested 31 August 1937; shot; So: L N

Janzen, Hermann G

Lived in Hohendorf, Aulie Ata; arrested in 1937; shot; So: L N

Janzen, Isaak Jakob

Born 1902 in Hierschau; lived in Klippenfeld, Molotschna; carpenter on kolkhoz

Arrested 6 October 1937; sentenced to 19 years in labour camp;

Died 18 September 1942 in labour camp in Krasnoyarsk Region; So: L N

Janzen, Jakob

From Tchongrav, Crimea

Together with total of 17 men arrested the night of 30 January 1937

Taken to prison in Simferopol

Returned home after a few days; So: Mary Klassen, Winnipeg

Janzen, Jakob

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Janzen, Jakob

Born 1907; lived in Steinfeld, Schlachtin; teacher; arrested 28 November 1937; So: L N

Janzen, Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Jakob

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Janzen, Jakob David

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Jakob Franz

Born 1890; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlactin; farmer

Arrested 6 November 1937; exiled 16 December 1937; fate not known

Wife Katharina (nee Kehler) arrested 16 November 1937; released early 1938; So: L N

Janzen, Jakob H

From Wernersdorf, moved to Pavlodar; minister in Pavlodar

Arrested there in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1883; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; carpenter

Arrested 8 September 1937 for "systematic counter-revolutionary agitation"

Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Johann

Born 1902; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 16 men arrested from the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Johann (Hans)

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Johannes

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Janzen, Johann Kornelius

Age 52; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937; died; So: L N

Janzen, Johann Martin (see biography p 228)

Born 10 March 1885 in Ebental (Nikolayevka), Memrik; teacher

Taught at schools on an estate, in Herzenberg, Barvenkovo, Herzenberg again

Elected as minister and served the Memrik MB Church

Arrested after he returned from a mission trip in the autumn of 1937; sentenced to 10 years of exile; wife visited on one occasion; not heard from since

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 281-284

Janzen, Katharina (nee Kehler)

Born 7 November 1890; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlactin

Husband Jakob Franz Janzen was one of 26 men arrested in the village

With 8 other women, she was arrested 16 November 1937; children put into orphanages

Was released after 3 months, early in 1938, thought to be as a result of the intervention of Nadezhda Krupskaya; So: L N

Janzen, Kornelius

Born 1895; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Kornelius Nikolai

Lived in Lindenau, Molotschna, moved to Zaporozhye; interpreter for Dneprostroi from 1932-1937; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Martin

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Mr

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlactin

One of 26 men arrested in the village, possibly 1 November 1937

His wife Katharina was also arrested, 16 November, but was released about 3 months later, early 1938; So: L N

Janzen, Nikolai

Lived in Steinfeld, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; released 1943; died a few days after return; So: L N

Janzen, Nikolaus (Kolja) Johannes

Born 28 March 1897; moved from Ohrloff, Molotschna to Prischib; teacher

Arrested 21 April 1937 in Prischib; imprisoned 2 years, then exiled to Novosibirsk

Died in exile; So: L N

Janzen, Paul

Born 1903; farmer; lived in Burwalde, Chortitza; arrested in the autumn of 1937

Exiled to unknown region; died; So: L N

Janzen, Peter

Lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer

Among 28 taken in the village in 1937; "enemies of the people"; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Peter

Born 1900; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 19 October 1931; returned;

One of 17 arrested in the village in 1937

Arrested on 17 November, informers were Peter Boldt and Otto Hein; So: L N

Janzen, Peter

Born 1904; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; bookkeeper

One of 16 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen Peter

Born 1891; Felsenbach, Borozenko; veterinarian; arrested 30 August 1937; exiled to Berikan
So: L N

Janzen, Peter

From Am Trakt to Ak Metchet in 1931; arrested there 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Janzen, Peter P

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Janzen, Peter Peter

Born 1888; lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; died 13 August 1947 in

Nischnaya Poyma, Krasnoyarsk Region; So: L N

Janzen, Peter Peter

Born 21 February 1893; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; kolkhoznik

Arrested 25 June 1937

Executed 15 August 1937 in Zaporozhye

Three brothers, wife and daughter eventually to Winnipeg; So: L N

Janzen, Walter

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Janzen, Wilhelm

From Osterwick, Chortitza; son of Minister Wilhelm Janzen; arrested in 1937; So: L N

Janzen, Wilhelm Wilhelm

Born 1895; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; arrested 7 July 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kaethler, Peter

Born 3 January 1911; lived in Liebenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; exiled; survived;
Lives in Russia; So: L N

Kampen, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1887; moved from Nikopol to Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; kolkhoz administrator
Arrested 2 February 1933; returned 1936; rearrested 1937; shot; So: L N

Kampen, Johann Jakob

Born 1900; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; carpenter; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasdorf, David Isaak

From Schoeneberg, Chortitza

Arrested just a few days after his marriage to Maria Buekert; So: L N

Kasdorf, David Johann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasper, Johann

Born 1919; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasper, Peter

Born 1902; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasper, Peter

Born 1919; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasdorf, David Isaak

Born 1915; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza

One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

Not heard from again; So: L N

Kasdorf, David Johann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasdorf, Jakob

Born 1898; lived in Rosengart, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 4 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasdorf, Jakob David

Born 1873; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; kolkhoz member

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasdorf, Johann Isaak

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasdorf, Peter David

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasdorf, Wilhelm (Willie) Isaak

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasdorf, Wilhelm (Willie) Johann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasper, David

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; survived exile; to Canada, died in
Vancouver, BC; So: L N

Kasper, David Johann

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; arrested 10 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kasper, Gerhard

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Kasper; Heinrich Peter

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kehler, Kornelius Jakob

Born 27 September 1888; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlactin; farmer; arrested 1 November 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Ketler, Gerhard Heinrich

Born 1899; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlactin; farmer; arrested 5 September 1937

Fate unknown; wife Maria (nee Schmidt) also arrested but released early 1938; So: L N

Ketler, Heinrich

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ketler, Helena

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlactin

Husband Peter Heinrich Ketler was one of 26 men arrested in the village

With 8 other women, she was arrested 16 November 1937; children put into orphanages

Was released after 3 months, early in 1938, thought to be as a result of the intervention of

Nadezhda Krupskaya ; So: L N

Ketler, Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ketler, Johann

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ketler, Kornelius

Born 1909; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; bookkeeper

Arrested 27 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ketler, Maria (nee Schmidt)

Born 25 November 1899; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlactin

Husband Gerhard Heinrich Ketler, who was one of 26 men arrested in the village

With 8 other women, she was arrested 16 November 1937; children put into orphanages

Was released after 3 months, early in 1938, thought to be as a result of the intervention of

Nadezhda Krupskaya; So: L N

Ketler, Mr

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlactin

One of 26 men arrested in the village, possibly 1 November 1937

His wife Maria was also arrested, 16 November, but was released about 3 months later, early

1938; So: L N

Ketler, Peter

Born 1913; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; farmer

Arrested 15 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ketler, Peter

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ketler, Peter Heinrich

Born 1905; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlactin; farmer

One of 26 men arrested in the village; not heard from again

His wife Helena was also arrested, 16 November, but was released about 3 months later, early 1938; So: L N

Klassen, Abraham Gerhard

Born 12 March 1883 in Rosenthal, Chortitza; parents Gerhard Klassen and Helena Dyck
Married Helena Epp 20 April 1910
Had 5 children: Helena born 10 July 1912 in Millerovo
Exiled to Siberia in 1937, died 1938
Wife Helena lived in Miloradovka, Ekaterinoslav Province in May of 1942
She died 1975 in Russia; So: *Cities Vol 1* p 277

Klassen, Abram

Born in 1911; lived in Burwalde, Chortitza; farmer; arrested in the autumn of 1937
Exiled to unknown region; died; So: L N

Klassen, Abram

Born 1904; lived in Orloff, Sagradovka; farmer
One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Abram (Sr)

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Abram (Jr)

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Abram

Born 1880; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Abram Franz

Born 1900; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka
One of 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, in the summer; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Abram Gerhard

Born 1915; originally from Blumengart, Chortitza, resettled in Kronstal
Exiled to Urals in 1931, returned, arrested again in Krivoy Rog in 1937; So: L N

Klassen, Abram Jakob

Born 1905; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna ; stableman, Consumer Union
Arrested 26 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary agitation"
Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Abram Johann

Born 27 August 1912; lived in Nikolaifeld, Sagradovka; farmer
One of 8 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Abram Johann

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Abram Johann

Born 1912; lived in Lichtenau, Molotschna; bookkeeper of dairy
Arrested 26 November 1937 for "participating in counter-revolutionary organization"
Shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Klassen, Abram Johann

Born 1907, lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; servant
Exiled to Far East 31 January 1935; returned after 2 years 10 months
Rearrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Adolf Kornelius

Born 1889; lived in Luxembourg; kolkhoznik; arrested 16 November 1937
for "counter-revolutionary activity" shot 29 December 1937; So: L N

Klassen, Aron

Born 1885; lived in Blumenhof, Borozenko; one of 3 men arrested in the village in 1937,
30 August 1937; died in exile 20 April 1938; So: L N

Klassen, Aron

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Aron Heinrich

Born 1885; lived in Nikolaital, Borozenko; arrested 31 August 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Bernhard Kornelius

Lived in Krassikov, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; died in captivity; So: L N

Klassen, David

Choir conductor in Einlage, Choritiza; wife Sara (nee Hamm) from Lichtenau

Arrested in 1937 and exiled to Siberia

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I p 285

Klassen, David

From Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Klassen, David

Lived in Hindenburg, Kudashevka

Born in 1910; wife Luise Janzen; arrested 1937; exiled; So: L N

Klassen, Dietrich

Born 1904; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, in the summer; not heard from again; So: L N

Klassen, Dietrich Franz

Born 1895; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Klassen, Dietrich Johann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Franz

From Tchograv, Crimea; wife Aganetha

Together with total of 17 men arrested the night of 30 January 1937

Taken to prison in Simferopol; returned home after a few days

Later imprisoned again; worked in a coal mine, eventually released

Lived in Rostov Oblast; So: Mary Wiebe, daughter, from Winnipeg

Klassen, Gerhard

Born 1897; lived in Burwalde, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested in the autumn of 1937; exiled to unknown region; died; So: L N

Klassen, Gerhard

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Gerhard Jakob

Lived in Steinfeld, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; executed in 1938; So: L N

Klassen, Heinrich

Born 1900; lived in Burwalde, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested autumn of 1937; exiled to unknown region; died; So: L N

Klassen, Heinrich

Born 1903; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; arrested 14 December 1937; So: L N

Klassen, Heinrich

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1897; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; hand labourer; exiled in 1935

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Heinrich Kornelius

Born 3 February 1888; lived in Mariawohl, Molotschna

1930 exiled to Siberia

Family fled to Elisabeththal in 1932, then to Mariawohl, then to estate near Gnadenfeld, then 1934 back to Mariawohl

Heinrich returned from his exile in Siberia in 1934

Was arrested 28 November 1937; shot 11 December 1937; So: L N

Klassen, Isaak

Born 1895; lived in Osterwick, Chortitz; arrested 12 October 1937; So: L N

Klassen, Jakob

Originally from Landskrone, Molotschna, moved to Mariawohl

Arrested in Mariawohl, Molotschna on 28 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Jakob

From Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Klassen, Jakob

Born 1874; lived in Steinfeld, Schlachtin; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Jakob

Born 1917; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Jakob

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Jakob Abram

Lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Klassen, Jakob Jakob

Born 1893; from Petershagen, Molotschna

Moved to Prangenau, Molotschna; kolkhoznik

Exiled to Cheliabinsk in 1931; returned; arrested 25 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary fascist agitation" sentenced to 10 years exile

Died 1945 in exile; So: L N

Klassen, Jakob Jakob

Born 1893; lived in Melitopol; machinist

Arrested 4 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist activity"

Shot 23 November 1937; So: L N

Klassen, Jakob Jakob

Born 1898 in Neuendorf, Chortitza; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; mechanic

Arrested 4 November 1937 for "participation in counter revolutionary sabotage organization"

Shot 12 December 1937; So: L N

Klassen, Jakob Jakob

Born 1902; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; stableman

Dekulakized, moved to Gnadental 1930-1931; arrested 2 December 1937

Exile for 10 years; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Jakob Jakob

Lived in Steinfeld, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in prison; So: L N

Klassen, Johann

Born; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; engineer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Johann

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Johann

Born 1906; lived in Steinfeld, Schlactin; arrested 10 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Johann

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people" died in exile

So: L N

Klassen, Johann Abram

Born 1884; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna

Arrested 18 August 1937; exiled to White Sea region; died of "heart failure" 1943; So: L N

Klassen, Johann Abram

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Johann (Hans) Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Johann Jakob

Born in April 1910; from Elisabeththal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937

Parents were deported to Kazakhstan in 1941, both died of starvation; So: L N

Klassen, Johann Jakob

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; dekulakized, but remained in the village

Arrested 1937-1938; died; So: L N

Klassen, Johann Johann

Born April 1910; lived in Elisabeththal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Johann Johann

Born 1903 in Barvenkovo; lived in Einlage, Chortitza/Zaporozhye; accountant in metal works

Arrested 7 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary activities; shot 10 January 1938; So: L N

Klassen, Johann Peter

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Kornelius

Born 1910; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Kornelius Bernhard (Boris)

Born 1880; lived in Krassikov, Neu Samara; arrested 22 October 1937; died in captivity

Rehabilitated; So: L N

Klassen, Martin Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Mr

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died; So: L N

Klassen, Mr

Lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Mr

Lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Nikolai Isaak

Born 1883; lived in Bahndorf, Memrik; brother of Peter Klassen

One of the 24 men arrested in the village between 6 May and 30 June 1937

Arrested 4 June 1937, declared an "enemy of the people"

Shot 31 August 1937; So: L N

Klassen, Nikolai Nikolai

Born 1 July 1911; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 14 June 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Klassen, Peter

Born 1907; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza: kolkhoz technician

Arrested 14 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Peter

Born 1898; lived in Nikopol; arrested 13 July 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Peter

Born 1894; lived in Orloff, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Peter

Lived in Bahndorf, Memrik; brother of Nikolai Klassen

One of 24 men arrested in the village between, 6 May and 30 June 1937

Arrested, declared an "enemy of the people" and shot; So: L N

Klassen, Peter

Born 1906; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 9 September 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Klassen, Peter Abram

Born 1890 in Neu-Schoenwiese; lived in Zaporozhye; agronomist

Arrested 15 December 1937 for "counter-revolutionary activity"; shot 14 February 1938

So: L N

Klassen, Peter Abram

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Peter Aron

Born 1919; lived in Blumenhof, Borozenko; farmer

One of 3 men arrested in the village in 1937, 5 November 1937; did not return; So: L N

Klassen, Peter Aron

Lived in Nikolaital, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Peter Jakob

Lived in Steinfeld, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Peter Johann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Peter Kornelius

Born 31 January 1886; lived in Mariawohl, Molotschna

Arrested 28 November 1937; executed 11 December 1937; So: L N

Klassen Peter Martin

Born 1888; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; farmer

Arrested 1 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Peter Nikolai

Born 1 February 1913; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 16 June 1937

Shot August 1937; So: L N

Klassen. Peter Salomon

Lived in Muensterberg, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klassen, Wilhelm

Born 1878; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klatt, Eduard, Johann

Born 1919, lived in Gnadenfeld, but then went to Ohrloff, where he was a teacher

Arrested August 1937 with 29 others; died in 3 months; So: L N

Klein, Jakob

Lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; worker; arrested in July 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klein, Leonid Gottfried

Born 1901; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; bookkeeper in "Punkt-Zagotzerno"

Arrested 7 August 1937 for "anti-Soviet activity" shot 16 August 1937; So: L N

Kliwer, Abraham Heinrich

Born 1904; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Kliwer, Aron Peter

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Kliwer, Franz Peter

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died; So: L N

Kliwer, Gerhard Peter

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Kliwer, Helmut

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kliwer, Isaak

Lived in Kaltan, Neu Samara; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Kliwer, Isaak Heinrich

Born 1903; lived in Dolinsk, Neu Samara

Worker of the "Dmitri Kolkhoz"

Arrested 11 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kleiwer, Johann

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people" died in exile
So: L N

Kliwer, Johann Heinrich

Age 40; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937; died; family to Canada; So: L N

Kliewer, Johann Peter

Born 1904; lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; kolkhoznik
Arrested 13 November for "organized counter-revolutionary activity"
Shot 14 January 1938; So: L N

Kliewer, Kornelius Peter

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Kliewer, Peter Franz

Born 1882; lived in Nikolaidorf, Molotschna, "Kolkhoz Ossoviakhim" truck driver
Arrested 4 December 1937 for "conducting counter-revolutionary intelligence agitation"
Sentenced to 10 years exile; died in camp; So: L N

Klippenstein, Isbrand

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Klippenstein, Johann

Lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Kloninger, Friedrich

Lived in Nikolaital, Borozenko; one of the men arrested in the village in 1937; So: L N

Knels, David David

Lived in Nikolaifeld, Sagradovka; father of Herbert Knels
One of 8 men arrested in the village in 1937
Executed on 11 October 1937; fate of the other men not known; So: L N

Koehn, Heinrich

Born 1893; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koehn, Heinrich

Born 1909; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; arrested 1937; exiled to Magadan; So: L N

Koehn, Johann

Born 1876; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; farmer
One of 16 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koehn, Johann

Born 1874; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; minister; dekulakized 1929-1930
Returned 24 December 1931
Among the 28 taken from the village in 1937; "enemies of the people" fate unknown; So: L N

Konrad Abraham Abraham (see biography p 230)

Born 6 June 1898 in Alexanderkrone, Molotschna
Graduate of *Handelsschule* in Alexanderkrone
Moved to north Caucasus region in 1914
Joined the Mennonite Brethren Church in 1918; participated in church programs
Married Eva Epp; 8 children
In 1927 elected as minister, then elder of the church
Exiled three years when he tried to obtain exit visas for the family in 1929
Eventually released in 1933, worked on "Kolkhoz Neu-Hoffnung" in the Caucasus region
Arrested and exiled in 1937; died in exile 27 December 1943
Wife Eva and children evacuated to Kazakhstan in 1941
So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 146-148, *Mennonitsche Rundschau* 1 April 1987, p 29

Koop, Abram

Born 1899; lived in Osterwick

Arrested 24 June 1937; exiled to the Far East; So: L N

Koop, Abram

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Koop, Abram Abram

Born 31 August 1883; lived in Schoenwiese, Chortitza

Arrested 1937 accused of "leadership of German spy network"

Tortured to death 1938; So: L N

Koop, David David

Born 10 January 1908; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; electrotechnician

Arrested 15 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koop, Heinrich

Born 1859, lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koop, Heinrich

Born 1905; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 27 November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Koop, Jakob

Born about 1880; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 30 June 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Koop, Jakob Jakob

Born 8 July 1884; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza

Arrested 18 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koop, Jakob Jakob

Born 7 March 1889; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; factory technician

Arrested 1 August 1937; fate unknown

Wife Maria Krahn arrested 11 September 1937; So: L N

Koop, Johann

Likely from Landskrone, moved to the Caucasus area

Total of 32 men were arrested and sentenced in Piatogorsk, Caucasus, likely in March 1937

Together with Elder Heinrich T Janz and 2 others arrested and sentenced to death

Sentence reduced to 10 years in exile

So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 292-294

Koop, Maria

Born 8 January 1890, Maria Krahn; married Jakob Jakob Koop

Lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; housewife

Arrested 11 September 1937; husband had been arrested 1 August 1937

Maria was exiled to Akmolinsk, Kazakhstan; freed after 13 years; died; So: L N

Koop, Reinhold

Born 1895; lived in Miloradovka, Alexandrovka Volost

One of 2 men arrested in the village in 1937; So: L N

Kornelsen, Johann J

Born 1908; moved Neuland to Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; farmer

Arrested 28 February 1937; shot in 1938; So: L N

Kornelsen, Kornelius

Born 1895; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka; brigadier

One of 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, in the summer; not heard from again; So: L N

Koslowsky, Abram Abram

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koslowsky, Abram Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koslowsky, David

Born 1900; lived in Einlage, Chortitza

Party member, instructor; probably denounced his own brother Jakob

Arrested 7 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koslowsky, David Heinrich

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Koslowsky, Gerhard Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koslowsky, Heinrich David

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koslowsky, Hermann Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koslowsky, Jakob

Born 1892; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Koslowsky, Jakob

Born 1898; lived in Einlage, Chortitza

Bookkeeper; wife and 3 children;

Denounced by his own brother (probably David)

Arrested 16 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Koslowsky, Jakob David

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Koslowsky, Jakob Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koslowsky, Jakob Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Koslowsky, Johann (Hans) David

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Koslowsky, Susanna

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Krahn, Bernhard Bernhard

Born 1886; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Krahn, Bernhard Bernhard

Born 1894; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza

One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

Not heard from again; So: L N

Krahn, D

Born 1902; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; died in prison 1940; So: L N

Krahn, Gerhard Bernhard

Born 1910; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Krahn, Heinrich

Born 1896; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 6 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Krahn, Isaak Bernhard

Born 1877; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; appointed official

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Krahn, Jakob

Born 1895; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; worker; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Krahn, Jakob

Lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Krahn, Kornelius

Born 1886; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Krahn, Kornelius

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Krahn, Peter Kornelius

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Krahn, Peter Peter

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Krause, Daniel

Born 1888; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka; chairman of the kolkhoz of Steinau

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

The men gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

When Daniel had delivered the men he thought his job was completed, but he was
detained himself and also imprisoned

All were soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot

So: L N

Krause, Frieda

Born 1911; lived in Reinfeld, Sagradovka

One of 2 women arrested in the village in 1937: both returned; So: L N

Krause, Johann Franz

Born 30 September 1871; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Forced to resettle to Einlage, Chortitza in 1932; arrested in 1937; exiled; So: L N

Krause, Peter

Born 1892; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kroeger, Johann David

Born 1889; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; worker

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kroeger, Peter David

Born 15 August 1890; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; appointed official

Arrested 4 November 1937; exiled to Siberian labour camp

Died there 13 July 1942 of "heart failure" (common term for starvation); So: L N

Kroeker, Gerhard

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kroeker, Jakob

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Kroeker, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1904; lived in Lugowsk, Neu Samara; arrested 8 October 1937; executed in Orenburg 1 month later; rehabilitated; So: L N

Kroeker, Johann

Miller from Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Kroeker, Mr

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; arrested 1 November 1937; fate not known; So: L N

Krueger, Jakob

Born 1907; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; arrested 4 November 1937; So: L N

Krueger, Johann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Kroeker, Johann

Lived in Lugowsk, Neu Samara; arrested 8 October 1937; died in captivity; So: L N

Krueger, Luise

From Friedensdorf, Molotschna; 30 men were arrested in Friedensdorf 1937-1938

Luise was the only woman arrested, 1937-1938; survived and died in Taldy-Turgan; So: L N

Krueger, Mr

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; school director; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Krueger, Peter

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Kuhn, Heinrich

Born 1882; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kuhn, Johann

Born 1893; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Kuhn, Paul

Born 1895; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Lage, Johann Johann

Born 1874; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; carpenter; had a wife

Arrested 5 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Lage, Karl I

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; carpenter; wife; arrested in 1937; So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Lage, Karl II

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza, bookkeeper; wife and two children; arrested 1937

So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Lammert, Abram

Born 1896; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 31 August 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Lammert, David

Born 1900; lived in Ohrloff, Sagradovka; farmer

One of the 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; exiled to Karaganda; So: L N

Lammert, Johann Johann

Born 1900; lived in Podolsk, Neu Samara; worked in "Kolkhoz Rot Front"

Arrested 9 September 1937; died in captivity; rehabilitated; So: L N

Lammert, Peter Jakob

Born 1887; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; carpenter

Arrested 8 September 1937 for "systematic counter-revolutionary agitation"

Sentenced to 8 years exile; died 21 October 1940 in Ustvishtabort labour camp; So: L N

Lange, Emil

Born 1895; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; arrested 1 November 1937; exiled; So: L N

Langemann, Bernhard

Born 1902; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Langemann, Jakob

Born 1893; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Langemann, Johann

Born 1891; moved from Orloff to Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; carpenter

Arrested in Moscow in 1929, returned and fled to Friedensfeld

One of 18 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Langemann, Mr

Likely from Chortitza, Chortitza; brother of man arrested 15 December 1937, probably

Peter Martin

Was exiled to the North, then arrested there August 1937; fate unknown

So: Letter written 3 January 1938, published in *Der Bote* 9 March 1938

Langemann, Peter

Lived in Spat, Crimea; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; wife to Germany; So: L N

Langemann, Peter Martin

Born 1886; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; worker; arrested 1937

Quite possibly Peter was arrested 15 December 1937; not seen since; wife very distressed

His brother, exiled to the North, was also arrested, in September 1937

So: So: L N; letter written 3 January 1938, published in *Der Bote* 9 March 1938

Lehn, Jakob

Born 1906; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; mechanic

Arrested 5 April 1937; fate unknown; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Lehn, Kornelius Franz

Born 1881; lived in Neuenburg, Chortitza; medical orderly

Arrested 15 December 1937

Died 25 January 1938 in prison in Zaporozhye; So: L N

Lehn, Kornelius Franz

Born 1890; originally from Spat Crimea; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; electrical technician

Arrested in 1937, died in 1938; likely in exile; So: L N

Lenzmann, Heinrich

Born 1911; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 5 November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Lepky, Boris Johann

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Lepky, Jakob Johann

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Lepky, Peter Johann

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Lepky Wilhelm Johann

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Lepp, Hermann Johann (see picture p 265)

Born 13 July 1887 in Schoenwiese, Chortitza; parents Johann and Justina Lepp

Patent engineer, likely in the Lepp & Wallmann enterprise, of Schoenwiese/Zaporozhye

Married Olga Janzen of Orechov; had 2 children who died in infancy

Hermann arrested 29 October 1937; not heard from since; likely executed

Olga migrated to Canada, and died in Winnipeg in 1986

So: *Cities Vol 1*, p 368; *Cities Vol 2*, p 39

Lepp, Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Lepp, Kornelius Gerhard

Born 1872; lived in Hohendorf, Aulie Ata; arrested April 1937; died August 1938 in the

Frunze prison, after torture; So: L N

Leppky, Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Leppky, Johann

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Letkemann, David Peter

Born 29 May 1908; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 6 November 1937; returned to

Karaganda 1947; died 1984; So: L N

Letkemann, Franz

Moved from Nikolaifeld to Yakovlevo

Arrested in 1937; sentenced to 10 years exile as fascist; did not return; So: L N

Letkemann, Heinrich

Born 1894; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Letkemann, Heinrich

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Letkemann, Johann

Born 1906; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Letkemann, Mr

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Letkemann, Peter

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Letkemann, Peter David

Born 16 March 1914; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza

Arrested in 1937; exiled to Donetsk; survived and returned to Zaporozhye; died 1980s; So: L N

Loepp, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 6 September 1897; lived in Halbstadt, Molotschna ; fled to Sivash

Arrested there in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loepp, Kornelius Heinrich

Born 31 December 1898; lived in Halbstadt, Molotschna ; fled to Sivash

Arrested there in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Abram

Born 1906; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 16 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Abram

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Abram Abram

Born 1888; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; office worker; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Bernhard

Born 1893; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, David

Born 1900; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, David

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Franz

Born 1885; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

Wife Helena Berg and 4 children

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Franz (Abram?)

Born 1900; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Franz

Born 1892; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka; revisor; arrested 1935; released

One of 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, in the summer; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Gerhard

Born 1904; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Heinrich

Born 1890; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Heinrich

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Heinrich

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; *Zentralschule* teacher arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Heinrich

Lived in Michaelsheim (Michailovka) Memrik; teacher; arrested 5 October 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Loewen, Heinrich

Born 1901; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; teacher; arrested 22 September 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Loewen, Heinrich

Son-in-law of Elder David Nickel; wife Anna and a child

Heinrich himself had a good job in a hospital in Chortitza, Chortitza

Elder David Nickel and his wife lived with the Loewens for some time

Heinrich arrested in 1937, not heard from since

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I p 325

Loewen, Heinrich Peter

Born 1890; lived in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; kolkhoznik

Arrested 20 December 1937 for "counter-revolutionary propaganda praising fascist Germany"

Shot 7 February 1938; family to South America; So: L N

Loewen, Heinrich Peter

Born 1892; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; Xray technician

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Isaak

Born 1904; lived in Steinfeld, Schlachtin; farmer; arrested 10 September 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Loewen, Jakob

Born 1907; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; technician

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Jakob

Lived in Pordenau, Molotschna, went to Donbas region; arrested and exiled there in 1937

Executed in 1938; So: L N

Loewen, Jakob Isaak

Lived in Nikolaifeld, Sagradovka; one of 8 men arrested in the village in 1937

Subsequent fate not known; So: L N

Loewen, Johann

Lived in Gnadenfeld, Baratov; one of the 4 men of the village arrested in 1937; So: L N

Loewen, Johann

Born 1871; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Johann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Johann Johann (see biography p 232)

Born in 1871 in the Yasykovo Colony

At age 15 moved to Friedensfeld with his parents

Interested in poetry and music

In 1897 married Helene Friesen. They settled in Blumenfeld of the Nepluyevka Colony

Had 6 children: Anna, Johann, Heinrich, Nikolai, two others died early in childhood

Published book of poetry in 1899, collaborated with Bernhard Dueck in writing hymns

Tried to, but were unable to migrate in 1929

Johann was appointed gardener on a collective farm

Arrested three times, but freed by court. June 1937 again arrested

Charged with trying to destroy the collective farm vineyards and orchards

Sentenced, transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, likely shot 29 October 1937

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 121-123; Personal Loewen Family information

Cities Vol 2 pp 39, 301

Loewen, Julius

Born 1893; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; bookkeeper; arrested 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Loewen, Martin

Born 1909; lived in Felsenbach, Borozenko; farmer; arrested 28 September 1937; So: L N

Loewen, Martin Martin

Born 26 May 1909; lived in Gnadental, Baratov; exiled to Lobva June 1930; returned home

Arrested 1937- 1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Nikolai

Lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka

Among 28 arrested in the village in 1937; "enemies of the people" So: L N

Loewen, Nikolai

Born 1903; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Nikolai Johann (see biography p 235)

Born 16 January 1910 in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka,

Parents Johann Johann Loewen and Helene Friesen

Married Anna Wiebe of Friedensfeld 1 December 1929

Had three children: Harry (1930), Johann (1934), Helena (1937)

Went to Nikopol and Kharkov to study as veterinarian

Worked as veterinarian in Friedensfeld

Arrested September 1937, accused of trying to poison the cattle on the collective farm

Sentenced, transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, and likely shot 27 October 1937

Wife and three children eventually reached Canada

Son Harry Professor of Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 121-123; Harry Loewen, personal family information

Cities Vol 2 p 195, 301

Loewen, Peter

Born 21 May 1906; lived in Steinfeld, Schlachtin; arrested 1 November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Loewen, Peter

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Loewen, Peter

Born 1 September 1899, lived in Lichtenau, Molotschna; mother died later in child-birth,

so Peter given to Mantler family who lived in Tiege; *Zentralschule* in Ohrloff;

Married Anna Krueger of Tiege on 4 September 1924; five children; lived in Fuerstenwerder,

Molotschna; had been a bookkeeper; was administrator of several villages; Communists

wanted him to join the Party, but he refused; also asked to be a minister, but he did not

accept that either; arrested 14 September 1937 together with other men; taken to

Melitopol on a flat bed truck; never seen again;

Anna with the five children to Canada in 1948; settled in Vancouver BC; So: Maria

Leininger (nee Harder), Germany and Susan Enns, Winnipeg

Loewen, Peter Jakob

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Lohrenz, Friedrich Friedreich

Born 1912; lived in Margenau, Molotschna; school principal

Arrested 22 June 1937 as "member of a counter-revolutionary fascist organization"

Exiled for 8 years; fate unknown; So: L N

Lohrenz, Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Lohrenz, Jakob Johann

Born 25 June 1906; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; bookkeeper

Brother of Gerhard Lohrenz, former teacher and pastor in Winnipeg, Canada

Arrested December 1937, one of 16 men arrested in the village in 1937; said to have died of pneumonia; So: L N

Mantler, Abram Abram

Born 1904; lived in Lichtenau; worked on "Kolkhoz Kagai"

Arrested 22 September 1937 for "conducting counter-revolutionary agitation"

Shot 12 October 1937 in Melitopol; So: L N

Mantler, Mr

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people" died in exile
So: L N

Mandtler, Jakob

Lived in Alexandwohl, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Abram

Born 1890; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; factory worker; arrested 27 November 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Abram

Born 1898; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 8 September 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Martens, Abram

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Abram Abram

Born 1894; lived in Pleshanovo, Neu Samara; railroad agent for the Orenburg region

Arrested 13 August 1937; died in captivity; rehabilitated; So: L N

Martens, Franz

Born 1889; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 17 December 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Gerhard Gerhard

Born 1907; moved from Rueckenau, Molotschna to Halbstadt; accountant/clerk at the
Molochansk Regional Finance Department

Arrested 13 September 1937; sentenced to 10 years labour camp; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Gerhard Peter

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Heinrich, Family

Lived in Einlage Chortitza, where the father, Heinrich Martens was an accountant

He was arrested 7 August 1936

Wife **Anna** (daughter of Abram Thiessen) born 6 November 1898

Arrested 11 September 1937, was released and with daughter Tina to Dnepropetrovsk

Daughter **Anna** born 28 February 1921

Arrested 11 September 1937; released 24 September 1937, eventually to Paraguay,
married a Mr Goossen

Daughter **Justina** born 14 September 1923

Arrested 11 September 1937; released 24 September 1937

Conscripted to accompany cattle eastward in 1941

Son **Heinrich** born 15 September 1924; carpenter

Arrested 11 September 1937; released 34 September 1937

Killed 1941 during battle for Einlage

Daughter **Tina** born 10 February 1927

Arrested 11 September 1937; released 24 September 1937

Found her mother and lived with her in Dnepropetrovsk

So: L N

Martens, Heinrich

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; was a “handler”; wife and 3 children

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N ; Johann David Rempel Notes

Martens, Heinrich

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N;

Johann David Rempel Notes

Martens, Heinrich

Born 1909; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 8 September 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Martens, Heinrich

Lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; known as “Amerikaner Martens” arrested 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Martens Heinrich

Lived in Lichtfelde, Molotschna; arrested in 1937

Martens, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 7 May 1894; lived in Nikolaipol (Nikolaifeld), Borissovo

Arrested 1937; sentenced to 10 years exile; survived

Moved to Karaganda in 1947; So: L N

Martens, Heinrich Julius

Born 1 November 1902; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza

Arrested in 1937; died 21 January 1947; So: L N

Martens, Heinrich Nikolai

Born 1911; lived in Melitopol

Arrested 23 January 1937; 10 years exile to Magadan

Released 1947; subsequent fate not known; So: L N

Martens, Jakob

Lived in Kleefeld, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Jakob

Born 1910; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 27 November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Martens, Jakob

Born 1913; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Jakob Abram

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Martens, Jakob Franz

Born 1903; lived in Donskoye; Neu Samara; Mennonite minister; arrested 31 August 1937
Shot, likely in 1938; So: L N

Martens, Jakob Kornelius

Born 1890; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; engineer; quality inspector in a factory
Wife and two children
Arrested 7 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist activities"
Shot 10 January 1938; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Martens, Jakob Peter

Born 1885 in Einlage, Chortitza
Father Peter Martens was looking after machinery of flour mills in Ekaterinoslav
Jakob was a mining engineer, having studied at the Institute of Mining in Ekaterinoslav
Wife Eugenia Lepp, one son, Vitalii
Jakob was manager of the laboratory of the Dniepr River power station
They lived in Einlage
Arrested 5 September 1937, accused of "counter-revolutionary activities, and being in contact
with a German agent D D Epp"
Shot 16 November 1937
So: Family Information from Vitalii Martens, son

Martens, Jakob Peter

Lived in Donskoye, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Johann

Born 1868; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; worker
Arrested 15 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Johann

From Petershagen, Molotschna
Exiled to Cheliabinsk in 1935; arrested there 12 December 1937; So: L N

Martens, Johann

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; chauffeur; 2 children; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N;
Johann David Rempel Notes

Martens, Johann

Born 1895; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 20 August 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Martens, Johann Franz

Born 1902; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; was shot in exile; So: L N

Martens, Johann Johann

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Johann Johann

Born 1887; from Franzthal to Crimea; arrested 1937-1938; sentenced 23 June 1939 to 8 years
exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Johann Kornelius

Born 1884; lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; bricklayer
Arrested 15 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist agitation in favour of
fascist Germany;" Shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Martens, Kornelius Abram

Born 1915; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; kolkhoznik

Arrested 3 November 1937 for “counter-revolutionary nationalist activity”

Shot 10 April 1938; So: L N

Martens, Kornelius Kornelius (see biography p 238)

Born 15 November 1880 in Wernersdorf, Molotschna

Parents Kornelius Martens and Helena Wolff

Moved to Spat, Crimea. Father died in an accident

Mother married David Huebert of Margenau, family lived there

Elementary school education, then Gnadenfeld *Zentralschule* and teacher training school in Halbstadt

Teacher in Siberia, then Samara and Alexanderpol

Married Sara Friesen of Alexanderpol 3 July 1904. Eight children: Kornelius, Sara, Helena, Tusnelda, Alexander, Heinrich, Elfriede, Anneliese

To Nikolayevka in 1906, where he helped establish a *Zentralschule*. Taught Religion, German and Russian

Throat condition, could not continue to teach

Moved to St Petersburg in 1912. Bookkeeper for *Raduga* branch, and took university studies evenings, especially languages

Appointed inspector of schools for Gnadenfeld Volost and Rector of the Gnadenfeld *Handelsschule* (business college)

From age 19 member of the Rueckenau MB Church. Age 26 elected minister. When in Gnadenfeld joined the Sparrau MB Church. In time elected elder

Negotiated with Red Army General Dobenko on 11 March 1919 for his army to spare the people of Gnadenfeld

Released from his positions when the Bolsheviks took over

Moved to Grossweide and tried to farm

Participated in the 13-18 January 1925 General Conference of Mennonite Churches in Moscow

Elected secretary, also onto the KfK (*Kommission fuer Kirchenangelegenheiten*) executive, and secretary-treasurer for *Unser Blatt*, a new publication

Interrogated by the police in Melitopol on a number of occasions

1931 expelled from the region

Teaching position in a medical institute in Stalino (Donetsk)

Wife Sara died 28 February 1934. Married Anna Klassen

Led Bible studies and occasionally preached

Night of 6 August 1937 arrested. Exiled for ten years. Anna able to speak to him on one occasion. By then very thin.

After World War II son Heinrich (Heinz) informed that Kornelius had died of pneumonia two years after arrival in jail. Subsequent information is that he was shot 15 January 1938 likely in the Stalino jail

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol 1 pp 207-213; *Kornelius Martens: Our Skillful Advocate*, pp 1-19; *Cities* Vol 2 pp 369-370; Family information

Martens, Mr

Lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Peter

Born 1885; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; laboratory manager
Arrested 5 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary activities"
Shot 16 November 1937; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Martens, Peter

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; dispatching agent; had wife and child
Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Peter

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Martens, Wilhelm Johann

Born 15 April 1896; moved Kronstal to Spat, Crimea; arrested 11 June 1937; taken to
Simferopol; sentenced to 10 years exile; his and family's fate unknown; So: L N

Martin, Harry

Moved Neuland to Steinfeld, Schlachtin; teacher; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Martins, Peter

Born ca 1900; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Mathies, Abram Jakob

Born 1888; from Friedensruh, Molotschna
Husband of Tina, who was the aunt of Justina Schmidt (nee Andres); she was also arrested
Arrested 3 December 1937 for "counter-revolutionary fascist agitation"
Exile for 10 years; died Vorkuta 28 May 1945; So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I p 225

Mathies, Gerhard Gerhard

Lived in Sarona, Crimea; exiled to the Urals 27 March 1930; arrested there 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Mathies, Isaak Isaak

Age 62; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died; So: L N

Mathies, Tina

From Friedensruh, Molotschna; wife of Abram Mathies; with husband arrested 1937
So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I p 225

Matthies, Heinrich

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Matthies, Jakob

From Sparrau, Molotschna; arrested in March 1937; of the 14 men arrested, 7 were shot
He was one of the first to be arrested in the village; So: L N

Matthies, Jakob Peter

Born 1926; lived in Sparrau, Molotschna; arrested with mother and three other siblings 1937
Released after 3 months; he was drafted into the Work Army in 1942; So: L N

Matthies, Johann

Born 1904; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; farmer; arrested 10 September 1937
Fate unknown; So: L N

Matthies, Karl

Born 1883; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; locksmith
Arrested 5 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Matthies, Kornelius

Born 1911; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 12 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Matthies, Kornelius David

Born 1902; lived in Mariawohl, Molotschna; worked on "Kolkhoz Avtod"

Arrested 30 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary propaganda"

Shot on Dnepropetrovsk 11 December 1937; So: L N

Matthies, Maria (nee Regehr)

Born 1892; lived in Sparrau, Molotschna

Wife of Peter Peter Matthies, who was arrested in March 1937

One of 4 women with children imprisoned December 1937

She and her 4 children were released 5 March 1938

Later exiled to Siberia, and starved; So: L N

Matthies, Peter Peter

Born 1892; lived in Sparrau, Molotschna; grain handler

Arrested in March 1937; of the 14 men arrested in Sparrau, 7 were shot

He was one of the first to be arrested in the village; executed

His wife Maria and 4 children were imprisoned in December 1937, and later released

Their house was turned into a pig barn for the kolkhoz, and the *Querscheune* used for sheep

So: L N

Mattis, Michel

Born 1910; lived in Steinfeld, Schlachtin; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Meier, Wilhelm

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Meyer Mr

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; *Zentralschule* teacher; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown

So: L N

Mirau, Kornelius Wilhelm

Born 1903; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Arrested in 1937; exiled; children came to Winnipeg; So: L N

N P (more details of the name not given in the letter)

Man living most likely in Chortitza, Chortitza; arrested in July 1937

Wife often travelled to the regional jail to bring him clean laundry and money, although she was never allowed to speak to him directly

She went there 8 September, when she was told he had been exiled to the North, sent away 16 August; sentence of 5 years

Wife was not given the location of his exile, but he would write; no letter ever came

So: Letter to *Der Bote* written 3 January 1938, published 9 March 1938

Nachtigal, David

Lived in Kaltan, Neu Samara; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Neudorf, Heinrich

Lived in Osterwick, Chortitza

Arrested 1937; returned 1940; on Great Trek in 1943

Repatriated; fate unknown; So: L N

Neudorf, Jakob

Born 1915; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neudorf, Peter Jakob

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Abram

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Abram

Born about 1880; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 20 June 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Neufeld, Abram Wilhelm (see biography of father Wilhelm Peter Neufeld p 245)

Born 23 March 1907 in Blumenort, Molotschna

Parents Wilhelm Neufeld and Helene Fast, Helene died 1914

Father and family moved to Liebenau in 1914

Married Maria Willms, whose parents were German citizen; likely moved to Schoensee

Son Alfred born 7 September 1937 in Schoensee

Abram was arrested September 1937 in Schoensee; sentenced to 10 years exile

Wife Maria was arrested and exiled June 1941

Abram was released in 1947, died 2 June 1948 in Tadzhikistan

Maria survived and lived in Neuwied, Germany

So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 42-43; Neufeld Family History, Gerhard
Neufeld, Ufa, Russia

Neufeld, Alexander

Born 1911; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; teacher; arrested 23 February 1937; exiled to Kolyma
One of the 19 arrested in the village in 1937; So: L N

Neufeld, Anna (nee Dick)

Wife of Peter J Neufeld; lived in Blumenort, Molotschna; bookkeeper

Exiled June 1931 to Cheliabinsk, later farther north; rearrested 1937-1938; eventually released

Died in the north; So: L N

Neufeld, Aron

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an “enemy of the people”; died in exile
So: L N

Neufeld, Aron

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus, arrested 1936-1937 as an “enemy of the people”; died in exile
So: L N

Neufeld, David

Born 1894; lived in Apostolovo; arrested 28 October 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, David

Born 1889; lived in Nikopol; arrested 28 April 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, David

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, David Dietrich

Born 22 October 1904; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza

Arrested 4 October 1937; died in prison 26 December 1942; So: L N

Neufeld, David Peter (see biography p 242)

Born 1883 in Rosenort, Molotschna, son of Minister Peter Neufeld

Dorfschule, Zentralschule, teacher training

Married Eva Reimer, daughter of Cornelius Reimer of Wiesenfeld

Taught in Wiesenfeld, Molotschna and Crimea. Lost his teaching position because he believed in God, likely in 1927

Was with his married son in the Crimea when David was arrested and exiled in 1937

Not heard from since then

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 46

Neufeld, Dietrich

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Mr (see biography of her father Wilhelm Peter Neufeld p 245)

Daughter of Wilhelm Peter Neufeld of Liebenau had a husband who was arrested in 1937

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 142-143

Neufeld, Gerhard

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Gerhard

Lived in Margenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Gerhard Wilhelm (see biography p 243)

Born 16 September 1905 in Liebenau, Molotschna; parents Wilhelm Peter Neufeld and Helena Fast

Mother died 1914; Gerhard were cared for by Maria and Jakob Peters (she was sister of father Wilhelm Neufeld)

To village school; later considered to be uneducated

Injury of thigh at school; painful; purulent discharge; eventually healed, but 10 cm short

Married Maria Jakob Neufeld 1926; children Wilhem (1927), Gerhard (1935)

Property confiscated 1929; dekulakized 1931; Gerhard and family sent to Tscheljabinsk in the Ural region; lived close to, then in a newly developed town, Kirsavod

Arrested in 1933, sentenced to two years in prison, served in the city of Sverdlowks

On release worked as driver for the main farmer in the local "Kolkhoz Weg Ilicha"

Arrested 5 November 1937 in Kirsavod, charged with "systematic counter-revolutionary agitation among the workers against Soviet power"

Tried by a Troika; sentenced according to Article 58-10 of the RSFSR to 10 years exile

Died 13 May 1943 in concentration camp near the city of Solikamsks, Pem region

November 1941 all families in the region of German heritage were evacuated; they and 12 other families to Pokosnyj

So: Neufeld Family History from son Gerhard Neufeld, Ufa, Russia

Neufeld, Gregory Nicolai

Eldest child of Nicolai Jakob Neufeld and Sara Gerhard Neufeld, likely in Davlekanovo

Family moved to Germany for medical studies

Gregory arrested 11 February 1937; subsequent fate not known

So: Neufeld Family History, Gerhard Neufeld, Ufa, Russia

Neufeld, Heinrich

Born 1901; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; chairman of the collective (mayor)

Arrested 15 September 1937, one of the 26 men arrested in the village in 1937

Later released; So: L N

Neufeld, Heinrich

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Heinrich Peter

From Sparrau, Molotschna; worker

Arrested in 1937; of the 14 men arrested, 7 were shot; Neufeld was one who was shot

His wife Susanne and 3 children were also imprisoned in December 1937, and later released

So: L N

Neufeld, Helene

Lived in Sparrau, Molotschna

Wife of Johann Kornelius Neufeld, who was arrested in 1937

One of 4 women with children imprisoned in December 1937

She and her 2 children were released 5 March 1938; So: L N

Neufeld, Hermann Hermann

Born 1896; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Jakob

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Neufeld, Jakob Heinrich

Lived in Wernersdorf, Molotschna; lay minister; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Johann (Hans)

Born 17 September 1882; lived in Liebenau, Molotschna; arrested 6 August 1937

Exiled; fate unknown: So: L N

Neufeld, Johann Wilhelm

Born 23 December 1902 in Liebenau, Molotschna

Parents Wilhelm Peter Neufeld and Helene Peter Fast, living on Lot No 53

Johann completed the 8 grade public school, then worked on the family farm until it was
confiscated in 1930

Thereafter he was employed as a driver

Married Agnessa Peter Letkemann 17 June 1931

Children: Wilhelm, Ernst, Helena

Lived in the *Sommerstube*, Lot 41 in Liebenau, owned by Franz family

Arrested 22 October 1937; accused of "preparing counter-revolutionary propaganda
benefitting fascist Germany"

Judged by the NKVD appointed Troika, found guilty and shot 23 November 1937 in
Dnepropetrovsk

Rehabilitated 23 October 1965

Agnessa and children fled to Poland in October 1943; eventually to Canada

So: Neufeld Family History, Gerhard Neufeld, Ufa, Russia

Neufeld, Isaak

Born 1896; lived in Orloff, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown

Family on the Great Trek, but fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Jakob Kornelius

From Sparrau, Molotschna; blacksmith
Brother of Johann and Kornelius Neufeld, also arrested
Arrested in 1937; of the 14 men arrested, 7 were shot
He was among the first to be arrested in the village, and was shot
Wife Nellie also imprisoned in December 1937, no evidence that she was released; So: L N

Neufeld, Johann

Lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; minister; arrested in 1937; fate unknown
Mentioned as "no longer there" in a letter of 3 January 1938
So: So: L N; letter written 3 January 1938, published in *Der Bote* 9 March 1938

Neufeld, Johann

Born 1889; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Johann (Hans)

Lived in New York, Ignatyev
Originally arrested in 1934, sentenced to 5 years and exiled to Vorkuta
Released in the summer of 1937, the rearrested in the autumn of 1937
Executed 1 March 1938; So: L N

Neufeld, Johann Jakob

Born 1902; lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; kolkhoznik
Arrested 13 November 1937 for "participating in organized counter-revolutionary activity"
Shot 14 January 1938; So: L N

Neufeld, Johann Kornelius

Born 1898; from Sparrau, Molotschna; club leader
Brother of Jakob and Kornelius Neufeld, also arrested
Arrested in 1937; of the 14 men arrested, 7 were shot
He was one of the first to be arrested in the village, and was shot
His wife Helene and 2 children were also imprisoned in December 1937, and later released
So: L N

Neufeld, Johann Wilhelm (see biography of father Wilhelm Peter Neufeld p 245)

Born 5 January 1902 in Blumenort, Molotschna
Parents Wilhelm Neufeld and Helene Fast, Helene died 1914
Father and family moved to Liebenau in 1914
Johann was arrested 22 October 1937; shot in Dnepropetrovsk 23 November 1937
Family to Canada; So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 42-43

Neufeld, Kornelius Kornelius

Born 1896; from Sparrau, Molotschna
Brother of Jakob and Johann Neufeld, also arrested
Arrested in 1937; of the 14 men arrested, 7 were shot; he was shot; So: L N

Neufeld, Mr

Lived in Karlovka, Memrik Colony; father of Dietrich Neufeld
Mr Neufeld and virtually all men were taken from Karlovka the night of 23 December 1937
Probably 4 men left in the village (that is how many were left in 1941)
Mrs Neufeld stayed alone; the children went to various schools
Mr Neufeld never heard from again; So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 426

Neufeld, Nellie

Lived in Sparrau, Molotschna

Wife of Jakob Kornelius Neufeld, who was arrested in 1937

One of 4 women imprisoned in December 1937

No evidence that she was later released with the other 3 women from Sparrau; So: L N

Neufeld, Nikolai Jakob

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Neufeld, Peter

Born 1900, lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Peter

Born 1897; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested in 1937?; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Peter J

Lived in Blumenort, Molotschna; bookkeeper

Exiled June 1931 to Cheliabinsk, later farther north; rearrested 1937-1938; died; So: L N

Neufeld, Peter Salomon

Born 18 October 1893; moved to Chortitza, Chortitza in 1934

Appointed official; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neufeld, Salomom Salomon

Born 1892; lived in Schoenhorst, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested September 1937; shot November 1937; So: L N

Neufeld, Susanne

Lived in Sparrau, Molotschna ; wife of Heinrich Peter Neufeld, who was arrested in 1937

One of 4 women with children imprisoned in December 1937

She and her 3 children were released 5 March 1938; So: L N

Neufeld, Wilhelm Peter (see biography p 245)

Born 11 September 1873 in Liebenau, Molotschna

Parents Peter Peter Neufeld and Katharina Heinrich Goossen, Lot No 18

From 1893 to 1899 was teacher of mathematics in Blumenort, Molotschna

Married Helene Fast of Blumenort 10 October 1896; 9 children, 6 boys, 3 girls

1914 Helene died, Wilhelm moved back to Liebenau

Elected minister of Schoensee Mennonite Church

1930 declared kulak, moved to Memrik, then in 1934 back to Liebenau

Arrested 18 August 1937, jailed, tortured, then shot 14 September 1937 in Melitopol

All six sons also arrested and exiled, three of them also in 1937

Two sons-in-law also arrested and exiled in 1937

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp142-143; L N ; Neufeld Family History, Gerhard

Neufeld, Ufa, Russia

Neufeld, Wilhelm Wilhelm (see biography of father Wilhelm Peter Neufeld p 245)

Born 16 September 1900 in Blumenort, Molotschna

Parents Wilhelm Neufeld and Helene Fast, Helene died 1914

Father and family moved to Liebenau in 1914; Wilhelm was arrested and exiled in 1937

Died in exile 27 May 1944 in the Akmolinsk region

So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 42-43

Neumann, Erich

From Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; wife Meta and 3 children; So: L N

Neumann, Peter

Born 1902; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Neumann, Peter Heinrich

Born 1883; lived in Muensterberg, Molotschna, then to Melitopol; coachman for the Melitopol Communication Centre

Arrested 4 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary propaganda"

Exile for 10 years; fate unknown; So: L N

Neumann, Peter Kornelius

Born 2 January 1902; moved from Davlekanovo to Halbstadt, Molotschna

Arrested 17 October 1937; sentenced November 10; shot November 30 in Melitopol

Family to BC; So: L N

Neumann, Wilhelm (Willi)

Born 1919; lived in Lindenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neustaedter, Abram

Born 1895; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo

Arrested 4 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neustaedter, Gerhard

Born 1896; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Neustaedter, Helena (nee Unger)

Born 1908; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; farmer's wife

Husband Kornelius Neustaedter was one of 26 men arrested in the village

With 8 other women, she was arrested 16 November 1937; children put into orphanages

Was released after 3 months, early in 1938, thought to be as a result of the intervention of Nadezhda Krupskaya; So: L N

Neustaedter, Johann Abram

Born 1887; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Neustaedter, Kornelius

Born 1895; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; appointed official

One of 26 men arrested in the village on 5 September 1937; fate unknown

His wife Helena Unger was also arrested, 16 November, but was released about 3 months later, early 1938; So: L N

Nickel, Abram

Born 1904; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; dispatching agent

Arrested 3 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Nickel, Alexander Alexander

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; *Zentralschule* teacher; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Nickel, Franz

Lived in Ishalka, Neu Samara; chairman of the kolkhoz; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Nickel, Gerhard

From Elisabeththal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; So: L N

Nickel, Heinrich

From Elisabeththal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937

His wife Katharina (nee Deleski) was also arrested later in 1937; So: L N

Nickel, Heinrich

Born 1910; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; farmer

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Nickel, Heinrich Kornelius

Lived in Donskoye, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Nickel, Jakob Jakob

Born 1900, lived in Schoenhorst, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Nickel, Jakob Jakob

Born 1887; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; watchman

Arrested 14 August 1937 for "recruiting anti-Soviet personnel; preparing for terrorist acts"

Shot 25 August 1937; So: L N

Nickel, Jakob Johann

Born 6 November 1905; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin, then Dolginsovo

Arrested 3 July 1937 in Dolginsovo; fate unknown; So: L N

Nickel, Johann Johann

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin

One of the 26 men from the village arrested in 1937

Actually arrested 4 July 1937 in Dolginzovo; So: L N

Nickel, Katharina (nee Deleski)

From Elisabeththal, Molotschna

Husband Heinrich Nickel was arrested earlier in 1937; she had no children

She was arrested 19 November 1937 with 2 other wives as "wives of enemies of the people"

Was imprisoned first in Halbstadt, then in Melitopol, was horribly mistreated

She returned to the village in February 1938; So: L N

Nickel, Kornelius

Born 1904; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; illegal worker

Arrested 3 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Nickel, Margaretha Peter

Born 1910; lived in Ohrloff, Molotschna

Fled to Stalino; arrested there in 1937; sentenced to 10 years exile at Pechora

Survived; died in Kiev; So: L N

Nickel, Nikolai Johann

Born 1900; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; appointed official

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Nickel, Victor

Lived in Melitopol; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; died of "pneumonia" in camp; So: L N

Nikkel, Jakob

Born 1905; lived in Rosengart, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 15 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Niebuhr, Abram Jakob

Born 16 August 1894; arrested 1937; exiled in 1937; never heard from again; So: L N

Niebuhr, Jakob Jakob

Born 30 September 1898; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza, also in Einlage; electrician

Arrested 5 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Niessen, Maria (nee Penner)

Born 1887; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin

Husband Martin Niessen was one of 26 men arrested in the village

With 8 other women, she was arrested 16 November 1937; children put into orphanages

Was released after 3 months, early in 1938, thought to be as a result of the intervention of

Nadezhda Krupskaya; repatriated; died in Tadzhikistan 26 April 1976; So: L N

Niessen, Martin

Born 8 March 1883; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; farmer

One of 26 men arrested in the village, 5 September 1937; released 30 November 1941

His wife Maria Penner was also arrested, 16 November, but was released about 3 months later, early 1938

Four sons were arrested in 1938: Abram, Gerhard, Heinrich and Martin; So: L N

Olfert, Aron Aron

Born 1902; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, in the summer; fate unknown; So: L N

Olfert, Heinrich

Born 1901; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka; arrested 1935; released

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Ott, Isaak

Lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka

One of 16 men arrested in the village in 1937; So: L N

Ott, Kornelius

Lived in Margenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Paethkau, Peter

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Paetkau, Abram (Sr)

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Paetkau, Abram (Jr)

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Paetkau, Franz

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; farmer; wife and one child; arrested 1937

So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Paetkau, Jakob

Born 1912; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Baratov; chauffeur; arrested 1 February 1937
Exiled in Magadan, Kolyma; fate unknown; So: L N

Paetkau, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1 April 1895; elder in the Mennonite Church; lived in Kalinovo, Memrik;
Likely sentenced to Moscow area and returned; fled to the Caucasus region where he was
arrested 1937-1938; died, likely in exile 14 February 1947; So: L N

Paetkau, Jakob Peter

Born 1901; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza; dekulakized
Resettled in Poselok, with family of five persons; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Paetkau, Johann Peter

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Paetkau, Mr

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; minister; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Paetkau, Paul

Born 1905; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; farmer
Arrested 4 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Paetkau, Peter

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Paetkau, Peter

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Paetkau, Timotheus

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pankratz, Abram

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; brother of Heinrich
So: L N

Pankratz, Abram

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; twin of Jakob; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pankratz, Abram Andreas

Born 1900; lived in Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; arrested 17 January 1937
Returned to his wife in Siberia after the war; So: L N

Pankratz, Abram Franz

Born 2 November 1901 in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev Colony; married, two daughters
Fifteenth child of parents Franz Andreas Pankratz and Katharina Guenther
Died in exile in 1937; So: L N

Pankratz, Andreas Abram (Sr)

Born 1870; lived in Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; dekulized and driven from home
Arrested in 1937; shot; So: L N

Pankratz, Andreas Andreas (Jr)

Born 1904; lived in Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; arrested 2 February 1933, returned 1936
Rearrested 1937; shot; So: L N

Pankratz, David

Lived in Kalinovo, Memrik; arrested 1937 and exiled to Kolyma in the far east for harbouring
a Thiessen family; returned 1947; So: L N

Pankratz, David

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; freed 1939; died at an old age; So: L N

Pankratz, Elisabeth

Born 1881; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; bookkeeper; husband Nikolai had been arrested 30

December 1936; he was also a bookkeeper

Arrested 11 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pankratz, Heinrich

Born 1884; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; minister

Arrested in 1935-36, returned in 1937, only to be arrested again

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pankratz, Heinrich

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; brother of Abram

So: L N

Pankratz, Heinrich

Born 1912; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pankratz, Heinrich Wilhelm

Born 1915; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pankratz, Jakob

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; twin of Abram; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pankratz, Johann (Hans)

Lived in Melitopol; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; died in camps; So: L N

Pankratz, Johann Andreas

Born 1906; lived in Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; arrested 1937; shot; So: L N

Pankratz, Peter

Born 1899; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested 6 November 1937; sentenced to 10 years in exile; So: L N

Pankratz, Peter

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate not known; So: L N

Pankratz, Peter

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; survived; taken into forced labour 1942; So: L N

Pankratz, Wilhelm Heinrich

Age 22; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

Probably the son of Minister Heinrich Pankratz

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; So: L N

Pauls, Abram

Lived in Gnadental, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Abram

Born 1900; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Abram Dietrich

Born 1901; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; veterinarian

Arrested 4 November 1937 as "member of a counter revolutionary fascist organization"

Shot 28 December 1937; So: L N

Pauls, Aron

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Cornelia

Lived in Ak Metchet; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Dietrich

Born 1880; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 4 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Dietrich

Born 1893; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; survived; died in Tjumen region in 1957; So: L N

Pauls, Franz

Born 1882; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Franz

Born 1896 in Lindenau/Slavgorod; from Sofievka to Yakovlevo

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Heinrich

Born about 1880; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 30 June 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Pauls, Heinrich

Born 1896; lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 6 November 1937; died in captivity in Komsomolsk in 1940; So: L N

Pauls, Isaak

Born 1880; lived in Zaporozhye, moved to Einlage; farmer

On 8 September 1937 taken for the fourth time, arrested and jailed

His wife did see him once after that in December 1937

He was walking down the middle of the street, hands shackled behind his back like a criminal, with a guard

He was very thin, with a long beard; he greeted his wife with a smile

Never seen or heard from again

So: *Einlage 1789-1943* by Heinrich Bergen p 351

Pauls, Jakob

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Johann (Hans)

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Johann (Hans)

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Johann

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Johann

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Johann Heinrich

Born 8 May 1887; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 15 December 1937; exiled; died in Siberia 5 January 1945; So: L N

Pauls, Johann Johann

Born 21 April 1879; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 16 December 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Pauls, Kornelius

Born 1882; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; engineer

Arrested 21 June 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Kornelius

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Kornelius

Born 1887; lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 6 November 1937; died in Tageshut 1938

So: L N

Pauls, Kornelius F

Born 1879; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 8 August 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Kornelius Jakob

Born 1881; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; kolkhoznik

Arrested 7 September 1937 for "participating in counter-revolutionary organization"

Shot 10 January 1938; So: L N

Pauls, Kornelius Johann

Born about 1868

Design engineer at the A J Koop Factory and later Factory Communar

Involved in the work of designing the first tractor produced in Zaporozhye

Work on this project began in 1914, with the tractor eventually exhibited in Moscow, and awarded a gold medal

Together with others the recipient of the Order of Lenin 3 September 1931 for being on the team which designed the first harvester combine produced in the Soviet Union

With other leading members of the design team, total of 11 people, arrested 8 April 1937 and executed 17 September 1937 in Dnepropetrovsk

On 19 March 1993 the Military Court in Kiev declared Kornelius Pauls to be "rehabilitated"

So: *Cities Vol 2* p 43; Newspaper article in *Avtosas Visti* 10 February 1995

Pauls, Peter

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Peter

Lived in Ak Metchet, Arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Pauls, Wilhelm

Born 1898; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Abram

Lived in Nikolaital, Borozenko; one of the men taken from the village in 1937; So: L N

Penner, Abram

Born 11 August 1910; lived in Schoenau, Sagradovka; farmer

Arrested 17 February 1937, one of 4 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Penner, Abram

Born 1912; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; farmer; arrested in 1937; did survive; So: L N

Penner, Abram Bernhard

Born 15 March 1900; moved from Ebenfeld to Nikolaital, Borozenko; farmer

Arrested 21 October 1837; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Abram Heinrich

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Abram Johann

Born 1905; lived in Blumengart, Chortitza

One of 3 brothers arrested in Blumengart on 5 September 1937; others were David and Heinrich

Never heard from again; So: L N

Penner, Aron

Lived in Nikolaital, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Bernhard (Boris) Abram

Born 1912; lived in Franzfeld. Yazykovo; electrician

Arrested 5 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary propaganda calling for sabotage and terrorist acts;" shot 26 November 1937; So: L N

Penner, Cornelius

Moved from Aulie Ata to Ak Metchet in 1931; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, David

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, David Johann

Born 1909; lived in Blumengart, Chortitza

One of 3 brothers arrested in Blumengart 5 September 1937; others were Abram and Heinrich

Never heard from again; So: L N

Penner, Dietrich

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Dietrich Dietrich

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Franz

Lived in Margenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Franz Jakob

Born 1896; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; mechanic; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Gerhard

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Penner, Gerhard Jakob

Born in 1889; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza; minister

One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

Not heard from again; So: L N

Penner, Gerhard

Born 1913; lived in Kronstal, Chortitza; chauffeur

Arrested 1937; imprisoned; returned; So: L N

Penner, Gustav Aron

Born 1901; lived in Halbstadt, Molotschna; electrical technician in Molochansk Power Station

Arrested 30 December 1937 for "counter-revolutionary work"

Shot 28 February 1938; So: L N

Penner, Heinrich

Born 1882; lived in Nikopol; arrested 14 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Heinrich

Lived in Schoendorf, Borozenko; the one man arrested in the village in 1937; So: L N

Penner, Heinrich

From Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Penner, Heinrich

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Penner, Heinrich Bernard

Born 15 March 1899; born in Ebenfeld moved to Nikolaital, Borozenko

Arrested 1937; exiled

Wrote letters until 1941; So: L N

Penner, Heinrich Heinrich

Lived in Lidyevka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Penner, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 12 March 1868; lived in Alexandertal, Alt Samara; kolkhoznik

Arrested 25 December 1937; sentenced 29 December 1937; shot 19 February 1938

Rehabilitated; So: L N

Penner, Heinrich Jakob

Lived in Pordenau, Molotschna ; arrested in 1937; exiled; fate not known; So: L N

Penner, Heinrich Johann

Born 1912; lived in Blumengart, Chortitza

One of 3 brothers arrested in Blumengart on 5 September 1937; others were Abram and

David; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Isaak

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Penner, Isaak Heinrich

Born 1914; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; teacher; arrested 5 November 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Isaak Isaak

Lived in Klinok, Neu Samara; arrested May 1937; sentenced to 3 years exile, but actually shot; So: L N

Penner, Jakob

Born 1905; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; farmer

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; So: L N

Penner, Jakob

Born 1909; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Jakob

Born 1897; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 16 November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Penner, Jakob

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Penner, Jakob David

Born 1900; lived in Lindenau, Molotschna; kolkhoznik

Arrested 20 December 1937 for "active counter-revolutionary fascist agitation"

Shot 11 January 1938; So: L N

Penner, Jakob Johann

Born 1 January 1873; lived in Alexandertal, Alt Samara; kolkhoznik;
Arrested 25 December 1937; sentenced 29 December 1937 to 10 years exile; fate unknown
Rehabilitated; So: L N

Penner, Jakob Wilhelm

Born 1901; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; workman; arrested 4 September 1937
One of the 26 men arrested in the village in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Johann

Born 1885; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka
One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Johann

Born 1898; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza
One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937
Never heard from again; So: L N

Penner, Johann

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo
Arrested 14 December 1937, for "treason" executed 12 January 1938; So: L N

Penner, Johann

From Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Penner, Johann

Lived in Nikolaital, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Johann

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Johann Heinrich

From Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Penner, Kornelius

Born 1896; lived in Nikopol; arrested 14 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Kornelius

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Penner, Nikolai Peter

Born 1 October 1896; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; appointed official
Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner Peter

Born 1886; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; factory foreman
Arrested 5 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Peter

Born 1914; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Peter

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Peter

Lived in Lidyevka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Penner, Peter Heinrich

Born 1903; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; farmer; wife Anne Froese
Arrested 10 September 1937; exiled; So: L N

Penner, Peter

Born 1884; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak

Arrested 7 November 1929

Sentenced 30 March 1930; returned; rearrested 1937; shot; So: L N

Penner, Peter

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Peter J

Lived in Lichtenau; arrested 4 September 1932; returned in 1934; fled to Crimea

Arrested in the Crimea 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Peter Wilhelm

Born 1876; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Peter Peter

Born 3 June 1893; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; teacher

Arrested 15 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Penner, Wilhelm

Born 1887; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Abram

From Wernersdorf, Molotschna

One of 3 ministers from Wernersdorf arrested in the Caucasus in 1937-1938; So: L N

Peters, Abram

Born 1905; lived in Nikopol; arrested 13 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Abram (Sr)

Born 1874; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; shot in exile; So: L N

Peters, Abram (Kuban)

Born 1889; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Peters, Abram Gerhard

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Abram Wilhelm

From Wernersdorf, Molotschna to the Caucasus; minister, arrested in Caucasus 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Bernhard

Born 1881; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Bernhard Bernhard

Born 1903; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Bernhard Johann

Born 1885; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, David Franz

Born 1899; lived in Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; sentenced to 3 years 28 February 1933

Returned; rearrested 1937; shot; So: L N

Peters, David Isaak

Born 1904; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, David Peter

Born 1911; lived in Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; arrested 1937; committed suicide 1937 after having been tortured by the NKVD officials; So: L N

Peters, Dietrich

Lived in Kaltan, Neu Samara; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Dietrich Heinrich

Born 2 February 1900; lived in Liebenau, Molotschna; stableman

Arrested 12 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary propaganda" shot 4 December 1937

Wife and family to Caucasus; So: L N

Peters, Franz Franz

Born 24 April 1909; lived in Gnadental, Baratov

Exiled to the Sverdiovsk region; returned

4 men arrested in the village in 1937, Peters on 29 December 1937; So: L N

Peters, Gerhard

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Heinrich Heinrich

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Peters, Heinrich Johann

Born 30 January 1904; lived in Prangenau, Molotschna

Son of Minister Johann Peters, leader of the Gnadenheim MB Church

Exiled 1932 to Khabarovsk, returned in 1935

Rearrested in 1937, not heard from since

Family on the Great Trek, but was repatriated; So: L N

Peters, Heinrich Kornelius

Born 1898; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Exiled to Vladivostok in 1929; returned; arrested October 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Gerhard Johann

Born 10 November 1881; from Rudnerweide, Molotschna ; teacher

Fled to Siwash to avoid exile; arrested in Siwash in September 1933; released;

Rearrested in September 1937; died in exile in Perm region 16 August 1945

Altogether 3 members of the Gerhard Peters family were taken and shot; So: L N

Peters Heinrich

Born 1904; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Heinrich

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Heinrich Gerhard

Born 8 August 1914; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna

Fled to Siwash to avoid exile in 1930; arrested 1937; died in exile 1944; So: L N

Peters, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 6 June 1902; lived in Sadovaya; dekulized; later arrested 17 January 1937

Exiled to Sakhalia Island where he died 1938; So: L N

Peters, Isaak Abram

Born 1915; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza

Dekulakized and resettled in Burwalde

Worked as port worker in Zaporozhye Lenin port

Arrested 22 October 1937; shot 26 November 1937; So: L N

Peters, Isaak Isaak

Born 1894; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters Isaak Johann

Born 12 January 1907; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo;

Arrested 27 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Jakob

Married Maria Peters 28 February 1925

Three children, one daughter two sons; eldest son died as child

Was exiled 7 September 1937

Wife Maria, with children, migrated to Winnipeg, Canada in 1948; She died 23 January 1986

So: *Cities Vol 2* p 43

Peters, Jakob

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Jakob

Born 1906; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Jakob

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Jakob Daniel

Born 29 June 1892; originally from Nikolaifeld

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; accountant

Originally exiled 29 June 1931; returned; worked in supply department of "Zaporozhstahl"

Again arrested 7 September 1937 for "counter revolutionary activity"

Shot 10 June 1938; So: L N

Peters. Jakob Jakob

Born 1882; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna, likely on kolkhoz; worker

Arrested 29 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist activity"

Shot 6 December 1937; So: L N

Peters, Johann

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Peters, Johann Johann

From Prangenau, Molotschna, minister

Son of Minister Johann Peters, leader of the Gnadenheim MB Church

Arrested in 1930, imprisoned in Melitopol, released

Rearrested in 1937, died in exile in Siberia 2 March 1938

Wife and 8 children deported in 1941; So: L N

Peters, Johann Johann

Born 1907; lived in Schoenhorst, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested in 1937, imprisoned in Zaporozhye; returned in 1939; So: L N

Peters, Jakob Julius

Born 1898; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters Kornelius

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Kurt Gerhard

Born 15 August 1918; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna

Fled to Siwash in 1930 to avoid exile; arrested there in 1937; sentenced to 10 years in exile
Died 1942 in Kirovsk, on the Vyatka; So: L N

Peters, Mr

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Mr

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; teacher

One of 26 men arrested in the village, 5 September 1937; fate unknown

His wife was also arrested, 16 November, but was released about 3 months later, early 1938

So: L N

Peters, Mr

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Peters, Mrs

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin

Husband teacher Mr Peters, was one of 26 men arrested in the village

With 8 other women, she was arrested 16 November 1937; children put into orphanages

Was released after 3 months, early in 1938, thought to be as a result of the intervention of

Nadezhda Krupskaya; So: L N

Peters, Paul

Lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Peter

Born 1908; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Peter G

Born 15 November 1883; lived in Wernersdorf, Molotschna; arrested November 1937

Never heard from again; So: L N

Peters, Peter Johann

Born 1897; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; kolkosnik

Arrested 29 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist activity"

Shot 6 December 1937; So: L N

Peters, Peter Kornelius (see biography p 247)

Born 23 June 1886 in Paulsheim, Molotschna

Married Katharina Dirks; 5 children; on 1 March 1931 expelled from their home

On 23 August 1933 Peter arrested, and eventually exiled to Murmansk

Freed because he was ill, but again jailed in Tashkent

Released because he was so weak; reached family, lived in Caucasus

Back to Paulsheim because of the health of his son

Arrested in the autumn of 1937, exiled to Novosibirsk region

Could not work, died of starvation 4 March 1938

Katharina eventually reached Canada, living in Namaka, Alberta, then in Yarrow BC

Two sons alive in Russia

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 195-198; *MR* Obituary of Katharina Peters

16 October 1974, p 11

Peters, Wilhelm

Born 1903; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; chauffeur

Arrested 30 April 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Wilhelm (Willi)

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; survived and returned to live in Dzhabul, central Asia; So: L N

Peters, Wilhelm

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Peters, Woldemar

Born 1910; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 16 June 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Plett, Abram Bernhard

Born 1902; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Plett, Gerhard Bernhard

Born in 1902; lived in Alexanderkrone, Molotschna

Arrested 4 December 1937 for "anti-Soviet propaganda"

Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Plett, Gerhard Kornelius (see biography p 249)

Born 19 July 1892 in Hierschau, Molotschna

Parents Kornelius Julius Plett and Margaretha Tobias Sperling

Nephew of Elder Gerhard Plett, elder of the Landskrone Mennonite Church

He himself was a minister of the Landskrone church, although he lived in Hierschau

Married Elisabeth Kroeker; four boys, four girls

Originally jailed in 1931, at the same time as his family was displaced from their home

Spent 5 hard years in jail, often being tortured, for example having needles driven under his nails

Released in 1936 and allowed to return to his family

20 October 1937 again arrested, sent into exile, and never heard from again

Elisabeth died 19 September 1972 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

So: *Hierschau* p 309; Elisabeth Plett, *Mennonitische Maertyrer*, Vol 2, pp 93-94;

MR, Obituary of Elisabeth Plett, 11 October 1972, also in *Der Bote*, 3 October 1972, p 7

Plett, Heinrich Heinrich

Age 50; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Plett, Jakob

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Plett, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1899; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna

Wife Anna Friesen; children Maria (1926), Jacob (1928), Heinrich (Heinz) (1931)

Arrested one night in December 1937:

Taken were brothers Jacob, Peter, Johann, Kornelius, Franz Friesen and brothers-in-law Jacob Becker and Jacob Plett

Latest family information is that they were shot the day after their arrest

So: *Memories from My Life*, by Heinrich J Friesen pp 46, 153, 154

Plett, Jakob Julius

Born 1881; lived in Hierschau, Molotschna

Carpenter for Chernigov School

Arrested 20 December 1937 for "conducting counter-revolutionary insurrectionist activity"

Shot 7 February 1938; So: L N

Plett, Peter Heinrich

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Poetker, David

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Poettker, David Abram

Born 1909; lived in Sarona, Crimea

Exiled to Urals 27 March 1930; arrested there 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Poettker, Isaak Johann (see biography p 250)

From Wernersdorf, Molotschna

Married Luise Wolf; three children

Evangelist to Mennonites and Russians

Forced to leave Wernersdorf in 1929; moved to the Caucasus area

Total of 32 men were arrested and sentenced in Piatogorsk, Caucasus, likely in March 1937

Together with Elder Heinrich T Janz and 2 others he was arrested and sentenced to death

Sentence reduced to 10 years in exile in Siberia; not heard from since

Luise and two daughters deported to Kustanai Region

So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 220-222, 292-294; Molotschna Historical Atlas pp 196-197

Poettker, Peter

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Pries, Jakob

Born 1894; lived in Rosengart, Chortitza; minister

Arrested 29 October 1937; exiled to the Moscow region; So: L N

Pries, Johann

Born 1886; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; farmer; arrested 7 August 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Pries, Wilhelm

Born 1906; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; teacher

Arrested 25 July 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Quiring, Abram Abram

Born 12 April 1910; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; farmer

Exiled to Bogoslov June 1931; arrested there 4 August 1937 and sent to Gulag

Died 15 July 1943; So: L N

Quiring, Abram Klaas

Born 1906; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo

Nephew of Minister Abram Quiring, who was exiled in 1930

Abram was one of the 15 men arrested in the village in 1937; two eventually returned

Abram arrested 4 November 1937 for "counter revolutionary nationalist agitation, praising fascist Germany;" shot 20 December 1937; So: L N

Quiring, Alexander

Lived in Ak Metchet; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Quiring, Franz

Moved from Am Trakt to Ak Metchet in 1931; minister; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown
So: L N

Quiring, Franz Jakob

Born 1888; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna, also on kolkhoz; carpenter

Arrested 14 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary activity among village inhabitants"

Shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Quiring, Gerhard

Lived in Ak Metchet; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Quiring, Heinrich Abram

Born 23 December 1911; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo

Exiled June 1931; returned; arrested in Nikolaifeld 8 August 1937; executed 12 August 1937

So: L N

Quiring, Jakob

Born 1879; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Quiring, Johann

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Quiring, Johann Franz

Born 28 July 1898; lived in Schoenau, Sagradovka; minister of the Mennonite Church

Arrested 1934; returned; arrested 22 August 1937

One of 4 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Quiring, Johann Heinrich

Born 1901 in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; machinist in locomotive depot in Zaporozhye

Arrested 5 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary activity"

Shot 10 January 1938; So: L N

Quiring Johann Johann

Born 1876; lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo; farmer

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Quiring, Johann Johann

Lived in Pordenau, Molotschna; arrested 11 December 1937

Executed in prison 16 March 1938; So: L N

Quiring, Kornelius Heinrich

Born 1883, lived in Franzfeld, Yazykovo, farmer

Arrested 27 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Quiring, Peter Abram

Born 8 August 1914; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; bricklayer

Exiled June 1931; returned; arrested in Nikolaifeld 8 August 1937 for "anti-Soviet activity"

Shot 12 August 1937; So: L N

Rahn, Bernhard Abram

Born October 1873; moved from Ljubimowka to Liebental, Alt Samara; kolkhoznik

Arrested 25 December 1937

Sentenced 29 December 1937 to 10 years exile

Died in exile 30 October 1943; rehabilitated; So: L N

Rahn, Heinrich Bernhard

Born 18 May 1904; lived in Neuhoftnung, Alt Samara; kolkhoznik

Arrested 25 December 1937; sentenced 29 December 1937 to 10 years exile; fate unknown

Rehabilitated; So: L N

Rahn, Jakob Jakob

Age 44; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937; died in exile
Family to Canada; So: L N

Rahn, Nikolai

Lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937 and exiled without trial; So: L N

Rapp, Eduard

Born 1903; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937

Married Widow Greta Loewen; she had two children from her previous marriage, Abram and Katharina

After the death of her husband Greta married Eduard Rapp

He was arrested and imprisoned in 1937, in Nikopol, at the same time as Johann Johann Loewen and Nikolai Johann Loewen

Visited in prison by Anna Loewen (nee Wiebe), his sister-in-law

Together with the two Loewens was likely transferred to Dnepropetrovsk prison and shot
29 or 27 October 1937

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 122; Personal family information from Harry Loewen

Ratzlaff, Abram Abram

Born 1907; lived in Waldheim, Molotschna; arrested December 1937

Died in prison 23 August 1944; So: L N

Ratzlaff, Abram Benjamin

From Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; wife Maria (Reimer); dekulakized and exiled 1929-1933

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ratzlaff, Heinrich Benjamin

Born 1907; from Gnadenfeld; kolkhoznik

Arrested 23 December 1937 as "active participant in terrorist organization"

Shot 28 February 1938; family on Great Trek was repatriated; So: L N

Ratzlaff, Johann Benjamin

From Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; disenfranchized, fled to Kolontarovka; returned

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Ratzlaff, Mr (unnamed son of Benjamin Benjamin Ratzlaff)

Benjamin Benjamin Ratzlaff had studied in Switzerland.

He was a teacher and minister living in Gnadenfeld

He served the Alexanderwohl congregation. He also owned a

grist mill. He fled to Berdyansk probably 26 August 1931, then back to the Molotschna at night, then in time to the Caucasus region. He died of malaria/typhus 28 October 1932, his wife died 11 March 1933

He had 5 sons

The eldest son Heinrich was arrested in 1937, and shot in 28 February 1938

Three other sons were arrested in 1937 (Abram, Johann, and another son)

The youngest son was taken in 1941

Two youngest daughters were on the Great Trek, but were recaptured in Poland and sent to Kazakhstan

One daughter, Susanna Willms, made it to Canada

So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 265-270

Redekop, Wilhelm

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Redekopp, Abram

Born 1908; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown

Arrested before the birth of his daughter Anna on 27 January 1938; So: L N

Redekopp, David

Lived in Donskoye, Neu Samara; minister; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Redekopp, Isaak

Born 1893; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; farmer

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Redekopp, Jakob

Born 1907; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Redekopp, Jakob Isaak

Born in 1907; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; farmer

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937

Wife Anna Berg and 2 children; So: L N

Redekop, Jakob Peter

Born 1892; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; farmer

One of 26 men arrested in the village, 5 September 1937; fate not known

His wife Katharina Penner was also arrested, 16 November, but was released about 3 months later, early 1938, attributed to the help of Nadezhda Krupskaya; So: L N

Redekop, Katharina (nee Penner)

Born 19 May 1895; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin

Husband Jakob Peter Redekop, was one of 26 men arrested in the village

With 8 other women, she was arrested 16 November 1937; children put into orphanages

Was released after 3 months, early in 1938, thought to be as a result of the intervention of Nadezhda Krupskaya; So: L N

Redekop, Wilhelm

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Regehr, Aron (see picture p 265)

Born 1880; lived in Altona, Sagradovka

Was minister of the Mennonite Brethren Church of Sagradovka

Neighbour of Jakob Peter Barga, and his brother-in-law

Exiled to the Tomsk region of Siberia for three years in 1934

Came back to Altona and worked as mailman

Picked up on his route and arrested and jailed 24 August 1937

The small package of food and clothing he had with him was returned in a few days

This could mean that he was executed

Also arrested the same day were Jakob Peter Bargen and a Dueck from Schoensee
So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I p 277; So: L N

Regehr, Aron

Lived in Mariawohl, Molotschna; arrested 28 November 1937 together with 5 other men
So: L N

Regehr, Gerhard

Lived in Sparrau, Molotschna; minister; arrested in 1937; executed; So: L N

Regehr, Heinrich

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Regehr, Heinrich

From Kleefeld, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938

His wife with three children were arrested the following day; So: L N

Regehr, Mrs Heinrich

From Kleefeld, Molotschna; her husband was arrested 1937-1938

She was arrested the following day

She was imprisoned, and her 3 children put into orphanages

She and the children were eventually freed; So: L N

Regehr, Heinrich

Lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937; exiled without trial; fate unknown; So: L N

Regehr, Heinrich

Lived in Kleefeld, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Regehr, Mrs Heinrich

Lived in Kleefeld, Molotschna; husband arrested; she was also arrested 1937-1938;

She was taken to Melitopol; fate not known; 3 children to orphanages; So: L N

Regehr, Isaak

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people" died in exile
So: L N

Regehr, Jakob

Originally from Rueckenau, Molotschna, moved to the Caucasus to escape arrest

In 1937 he, together with a number of others from Rueckenau, were arrested and exiled
from the Caucasus; So: *Rueckenau* p 186; L N

Regehr, Jakob

Born 1889; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 28 arrested in the village in 1937; as "enemies of the people"

Together with Abram Duerksen wrote a poem/song while in prison in 1937; So: L N

Regehr, Jakob

Born 1909; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 16 December 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Regehr, Johann

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Regehr, Johann (Hans)

Born 1899; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Regehr, Nikolai

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Regier, Heinrich Jakob

Born 1879; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Regier, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1907; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer; husband of Olga Aron Toews

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Regier (Reger), Johann

Born 1904; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 7 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Regier, Thomas

Lived in Elisabeththal, Molotschna; arrested in 1936-1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Abram

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Abram (Sr)

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Abram (Jr)

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; shot; So: L N

Reimer, Abram Cornelius

Born 1895 in Wiesenfeld, Pavlograd

Parents Cornelius Jakob Reimer and Katharina Isaak; youngest of nine children

Brother of Cornelius Cornelius Reimer and Jakob Cornelius Reimer of Sardis, BC

Big, strong and talented, his specialties were mechanics and violin playing

Studied mechanical engineering at the University of Moscow

Met and married a Russian woman

Tried to dissuade his older brother Jakob from going to Canada; Jakob and family landed in Quebec 24 October 1925

Obviously became a trusted member of the Communist Party

Acquired position with the Soviet government as "engineer in charge of official vehicles at the Red Square"

During the time of the Purge a car in which V M Molotov was riding stalled. Another car had to be dispatched, and Molotov had to emerge from behind bullet-proof glass for a few seconds - a breach of security! On the chance that this could have been a conspiracy, the driver, dispatcher, mechanic and engineer in charge were shot

Abram Reimer, the engineer in charge, was therefore executed, sometime 1937 or 1938

(Though Abram was executed, this hardly qualifies him to be listed among martyrs for the faith!)

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 46; *Cities* Vol 2 p 240

Reimer, Alexander Alexander

Age 40; moved from Sparrau to Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Aron Klaas

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; dekulakized, exiled from village; returned;

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer David

Lived in Lindenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937; exiled; survived; lives in Germany; So: L N

Reimer, Ewald Johann

Born 1906; lived in Rizivka; arrested 16 November 1937 for "membership in terrorist organization" shot 29 December 1937; So: L N

Reimer, Franz

Son of Minister Jakob W Reimer

Originally from Rueckenau, Molotschna, moved to the Caucasus to escape arrest

In 1937 he, together with a number of others from Rueckenau, were arrested and exiled from the Caucasus

His wife and 2 sons died in the far North 1941-1942

Franz died in the far North in 1964

So: *Rueckenau* p 187; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 292-294; L N

Reimer, Gerhard

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; dekulakized, exiled from village; returned;

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Gerhard

Lived in Pordenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; returned; rearrested in 1938; shot; So: L N

Reimer, Heinrich

Born 1899, lived in Schoendorf, Borozenko; farmer; arrested 5 August 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Reimer, Heinrich

Born 1885; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 20 June 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Jakob

Born 1877; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; miller; wife and two children

Arrested 5 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Reimer, Jakob

From the Crimea, siblings Ivan, Sonya, Katya

Attended the Karassan *Zentralschule*; very gifted musically

Student at St Petersburg, probably engineering; likely spent additional time studying in Germany and Moscow

Married Mary Brieger; moved to Moscow, possibly because Mary was transferred there

Son Harold was born 5 October 1923 in Moscow

Transferred, likely as an engineer, to Tashkent for a time

Divorce, about 1925, possibly when he was transferred; Mary in time married C F Klassen

Married a Russian woman; daughter Erika was born in 1926

Then Jakob likely returned to Moscow

Jakob executed in 1937

Daughter Erika became a geologist

So: *Cities* Vol 2, pp 241-242

Reimer, Jakob

Born 1902; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 16 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Jakob

Born 1909; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 16 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Jakob

Born 1903; lived in Friesendorf; farmer; arrested 12 August 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Jakob

Lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested in 6 November 1937; died in captivity in Komsomolsk
So: L N

Reimer, Jakob

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Jakob Johann

Born 1889; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Johann

Lived in Halbstadt, Molotschna; arrested 17 October 1937; shot 2 months later in Melitopol
So: L N

Reimer, Johann

Lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sgradovka; teacher; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Johann

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; bookkeeper; wife and one child; arrested in 1937
So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Reimer, Justina (nee Thiessen)

Born 21 August 1893; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; housewife

Arrested 11 September 1937; released 1955; eventually to Winnipeg; died 1985

Husband Gerhard Reimer, accountant, was arrested 17 October 1938, also released 1955
So: L N

Reimer, Kornelius

Born 1911; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; teacher

Arrested 18 October 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Kornelius Peter

Born 1908; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; lecturer at Dniepr Aluminium Works

Arrested 4 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist activity"

Shot 10 June 1938; So: L N

Reimer, Margareta

Born 1893; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; housewife; two children

Arrested 11 September 1937; released 1955

Husband Heinrich Reimer, bookkeeper, was arrested 23 September 1936; So: L N

Reimer, Martin Peter

Born 1878; lived in Alexandertal, Alt Samara; kolkhoznik; arrested 25 December 1937

Sentenced 29 December 1937 to 10 years exile; fate unknown; rehabilitated; So: L N

Reimer, Mr

From Schoenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Reimer, Mr

Lived in Blumenort, Usman, Amur region; teacher; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Reimer, Nikolai

From Landskrone, Molotschna; moved to the Caucasus area

Total of 32 men were arrested and sentenced in Piatogorsk, Caucasus, likely in March 1937

Together with Elder Heinrich T Janz and 2 others, arrested and sentenced to death

Sentence reduced to 10 years in exile; subsequent fate unknown

So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 292-294

Reimer, Peter

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an “enemy of the people” died in exile

So: L N

Reimer, Wilhelm

Born 1903; lived in Nikopol; arrested 14 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Abraham Abraham (see biography p 252)

Born 16 October 1903 in Hochfeld, Yasykovo Colony

Married Anna Froese (sister of Heinrich Froese) of Schoeneberg, they the lived in Schoeneberg
MB member, taught Sunday School and preached

Asked to spy at his place of work, but refused; to Caucasus, then back to Schoeneberg

Arrested and imprisoned 29 October 1937; total of 17 men taken at that time

Executed 25 November 1937 in Zaporozhye; rehabilitated 6 December 1966

Anna and three children eventually escaped to Paraguay

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 258-261; Froese Family history; So: L N;

German and Soviet Red Cross communication 1991

Rempel, Abram Abram

Born 21 September 1895; lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; sent to kulak settlement March
1930; arrested there 16 December 1937; died 2 February 1938 in Gulag; So: L N

Rempel, Abram Wilhelm

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Bernhard Wilhelm

Born 1880 in Hochfeld, Yasykovo; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; kolkhoz member

Arrested in 1937; executed 2 February 1938 in Zaporozhye; rehabilitated 26 August 1960

So: L N; German and Soviet Red Cross communication 1991

Rempel, David

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; bookkeeper; wife and one child

Arrested in 1937; So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Rempel, David David

Born 1893; moved from Nieder-Chortitza to Rudnerweide, Molotschna; school principal

Arrested 22 June 1937 for “organized counter-revolutionary work, training personnel”

Sentenced to 8 years exile; died in camp 23 December 1938; So: L N

Rempel, David Nikolai

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Dietrich

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Dietrich Johann

Born 1890; moved from Gnadenfeld to Liebenau; teacher

Arrested 29 April 1937 as “member of a counter-revolutionary fascist group set up for active
struggle;” shot 22 August 1937; So: L N

Rempel, Gerhard

Born 1885; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; originally from Einlage, Chortitza

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Gerhard

Born 1917; lived in Blumengart, Chortitza

Arrested in 1937; never heard from again; So: L N

Rempel, Gerhard

Born 1893; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; exiled to Komi ASSR

Died in exile 1943; So: L N

Rempel, Gerhard

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Gerhard Jakob (see biography p 254)

Born 20 March 1885 in Rosenthal, Chortitza

Married Aganeta Koop; two children: Anna, born 17 October 1922, Jakob, born about 1924

In 1923, working at a factory based in Einlage played a part in designing a tractor

Gerhard was sent to Moscow with the tractor, which won a gold medal

Worked as a design engineer, for some time for Factory Communar in Zaporozhye

Was arrested in 1933 and imprisoned in Odessa, released after 13 months

Moved the Kharkov in 1934, there worked as an engineer for the Ukrainian Institute of

Agricultural Machinery

Arrested 4 August 1937, "accused of spying for Germany" shot 26 December 1937

Son Jakob was arrested in 1941, at the age of 16, sent to Siberia, eventually became a geologist

Aganeta and Anna came to Canada in 1949; Aganeta died in Calgary in 1988 at the age of 95

So: Rempel family history, Anna Rempel, Calgary; *Cities Vol 2* p 44

Rempel, Gerhard Johann

Born 1916; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza

Arrested 23 September for "counter-revolutionary activity, training persons for sabotage"

Shot 16 November 1937; So: L N

Rempel, Gerhard Peter

Lived in Arkadak (village not designated); arrested in Arkadak 1937; fate unknown: So: L N

Rempel, Gustav Johann

Born 20 October 1893; from Gnadenfeld, Molotschna, moved to Berdyansk

Arrested in 1937 in Berdyansk, South Russia; sent to Sverdlovsk/Solikamsk

Left wife Olga and 2 children who eventually escaped to Canada; So: L N

Rempel, Heinrich

Born 1896; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; wagon builder

One of 15 men arrested in the village in 1937; he was arrested 1 January 1937;
sentenced to five years exile

One of the two men who returned; Heinrich was released in 1952; So: L N

Rempel, Heinrich

Born 1901; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza

Arrested 16 April 1937; exiled; never heard from again; So: L N

Rempel, Heinrich Peter

Born 1900; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza; bookkeeper

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Jakob

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Jakob Abram

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Jakob Jakob

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Jakob Wilhelm

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Johann

Born 1887; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza

One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

Not heard from again; So: L N

Rempel, Johann

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Johann (Hans)

Born 1908; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; locksmith

Arrested 27 October 1937; imprisoned, interrogated; released 28 March 1939; So: L N

Rempel, Johann

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; arrested 1937-1938; exiled to Ivdellag; killed in logging accident; So: L N

Rempel, Johann Dietrich

Born 1898; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; arrested 4 October 1937; So: L N

Rempel, Johann Jakob

Born 1884; lived in Liebenau, "Kolkhoz Dimitri"; carpenter

Arrested 22 October 1937 for "systematic anti-Soviet agitation" sentenced 27 October 1937

Shot 23 November 1937; So: L N

Rempel, Johann (Hans) Jakob

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Johann Johann

Born 1894; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo

Dekulakized; allowed to move from Nikolaifeld to Chortitza in 1933

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Nikolai Peter (see biography p 259)

Born 8 January 1891 on an estate near Station Sofiefka, Ekaterinoslav

Zentralschule and *Realschule* education; *Forsteidienst* for 6 years

1926 purchased *Wirtschaft* in Friedensdorf

Married Katharina Neufeld 8 July 1928; children Nikolai, Rita, Maria

Secretary of the kolkhoz, then later carpenter

Arrested with three others in the summer of 1937; to the jail in Waldheim

Likely sentenced and sent into exile

Telegram one year later, that he was alive and well; not heard from since

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 198-199

Rempel, Nikolai

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Peter

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempel, Peter Heinrich

Born 1911; lived in Einlage, Chortitza

Electrician at Dneproenergo; wife and one child

Arrested 26 August 1937 for “counter-revolutionary activity undermining Soviet authority”

Shot 10 September 1937; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Rempel, Wilhelm Abram

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Rempenning, Bernhard (Boris) Abram

Born 1908; lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; kolkhoz plough man

Arrested 13 December 1937 for “conducting anti-Soviet agitation among German population”

Shot 7 February 1938; So: L N

Rennpening, Heinrich Jakob

Born 28 March 1888; lived in Liebenau, Molotschna

Arrested in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Rennpenning, Jakob

From Klippenfeld; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Rennpenning, Peter

From Klippenfeld; probably arrested 1934, then rearrested in 1937; exiled; So: L N

Retzlaff, Wilhelm

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Richert, Franz

Born 1896; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Richert, Heinrich

Born 1895; lived in Schoenau, Sagradovka; tractorist;

One of 4 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Richert, Johann

Born 1901; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; later released; So: L N

Richert, Peter

Born 1912; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Riediger, Abram Aaron

Lived in Lindenau, Molotschna; arrested; released after 4 years; rearrested in 1937

Eventually survived and came to Canada; So: L N

Riediger, Abram Jakob

Lived in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; arrested around 1937-1938; So: L N

Riediger, Abram Peter

Born 18 July 1883; lived in Pleshanovo, Neu Samara; worker

Arrested 2 September 1937; sentenced 11 September 1937;

Executed 15 September 1937 in Orenburg; rehabilitated; So: L N

Riediger, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1888; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; worked on kolkhoz; carpenter

Arrested 7 September 1937 for “organized counter-revolutionary work among German population,” sentenced to 8 years exile; died in camp; So: L N

Riediger, Peter Aron

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; So: L N

Riesen, Dietrich Jakob

Born 1906; lived in Neuhoftnung, Alt Samara; kolkhoznik; arrested 23 December 1937
Sentenced 29 December 1937; executed 19 February 1938; rehabilitated; So: L N

Riesen, Hermann Jakob

Born 1882; lived in Neuhoftnung, Alt Samara; AMLV President (called *Kaiser* Riesen)
Sentenced to 5 years exile 25 February 1931, returned 1935; rearrested 1937; returned 1939
Died in Karaganda 1960; So: L N

Riesen, Jakob Jakob

Born 1881; lived in Murajewka; exiled to Arkhangelsk 30 March 1930; arrested 1937
Fate unknown; So: L N

Riesem, Rudolf Jakob

Born 30 July 1887; lived in Grottsfeld, Alt Samara; minister/carpenter
Sentenced 1931 to 3 years in Belomor; returned 1934
Rearrested 25 December 1937
Sentenced 29 December 1937; shot 19 February 1938; rehabilitated; So: L N

Rogalsky, Abram Gerhard

Forced to move from Fuerstenwerder to Wernersdorf, Molotschna;
Arrested, likely in Wernersdorf, 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Rogalsky, Heinrich Gerhard

Moved from Wernersdorf to Fuerstenwerder; arrested 16 December 1937
Died in exile 1942, liver cancer; So: L N

Ruhl, Adam

Age 40; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka
One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December
They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days
Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman
Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.
Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Ruhl, Nikolai

Age 42; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka
One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December
They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days
Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman
Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.
Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Sawatzky, Abram Heinrich

Born 5 July 1901; lived in Millerovo; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Sawatzky, Anna Julius

Born 1885; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; housewife
Arrested in 1937; exiled to Mordova, ASSR; So: L N

Sawatzky, Bernhard

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Sawatzky, Eduard

Born 1905; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; arrested 4 November 1937; So: L N

Sawatzky, Franz

Born 27 February 1891

Married Lydia Martens: children Wilhelm, Margaretha, Franz, Helene

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo Colony

Evicted from their home and disenfranchised in 1930, moved to a Russian village

Exiled to the Urals in 1931, but escaped

First stayed in Rosenbach, where Franz was the village herdsman

Settled in Neuendorf, Chortitza Colony for 3½ years, the family seemed to be “rehabilitated”

Franz was arrested in Chortitza 4 November 1937, accused of “participating in German counter-revolutionary activities”

Wife visited him in jail in Zaporozhye several times. The last time she was told that he had been transferred on 8 January 1938. Family subsequently discovered that he had been executed that day

Wife Lydia was eventually evacuated to Kazakhstan in May 1945, where she died three months later. Son Franz came to Canada in 1948

So: Sawatzky Family records

Sawatzky, Heinrich

Moved from Fuerstenwerder to Wernersdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938

Fate unknown; So: L N

Sawatzky, Heinrich Jakob

Born 1903; lived in Altona; kolkhoznik

Arrested 23 October 1937 as “member of a counter-revolutionary organization, directed at overturning Soviet power” shot 25 November 1937; So: L N

Sawatzky, Heinrich Peter

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Sawatzky, Jakob

Born 9 August 1903; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; sentenced to 10 years exile; released after 14 years (1951); died in Frunze 1987; So: L N

Sawatzky, Jakob

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Sawatzky, Jakob Jakob

Born 1915; lived in Blumenort, Molotschna; mechanic

Arrested November 1937 together with Jakob Berg

Shot 29 November 1937 in Melitopol; So: L N

Sawatzky, Jakob Peter

Born 1891; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; appointed official

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Sawatzky, Jakob Peter

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; exiled to Siberia

Returned after 3 months; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Sawatzky, Johann

Born 1908, lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza

One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

Not heard from again; So: L N

Sawatzky, Johann

Born 1915; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza

One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

Not heard from again; So: L N

Sawatzky, Kornelius

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938; imprisoned in Zaporozhye; released; So: L N

Sawatzky, Leonard

Lived in Klinok, Neu Samara; arrested May 1937; sentenced to 10 years exile, but actually shot; So: L N

Sawatzky, Peter

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Sawatzky, Peter

Lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 10 October 1937; shot; So: L N

Sawatzky, Peter

Born 1895; lived in Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; arrested 17 January 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Sawatzky, Peter Jakob

Born 1897; lived in Felsenbach, Borozenko; miller; arrested in autumn 1932

Returned April 1936; rearrested 30 August 1937, one of the 9 men arrested in the village

Exiled to the far east; So: L N

Sawatzky, Peter Jakob (see biography p 260)

Born 14 June 1886 in Wiesenfeld, Pavlograd; trained as teacher, taught in a number of places

Then studied Medicine at New Russian University in Odessa

Practiced at several locations in the Crimea, including Karassan and finally Theodosia

Wife Margaretha Reimer, two children, Woldemar and Agnes

Arrested 18 November 1937, interrogated for one year, then sentenced to ten years exile

Wife visited him once at his concentration camp, he was thin and sick

Some letters followed, then nothing, presumably died

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 44-47

Schapansky, Kornelius

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schapansky, Peter

Born 1905; lived in Steinfeld, Schlachtin; farmer; arrested 1 November 1937; So: L N

Schellenberg, Abram Anton

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Schellenberg, Anton Anton

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Schellenberg, David Gerhard

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Schellenberg, Gerhard Gerhard

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Schellenberg, Jakob

Born 1882; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Schellenberg, Jakob Gerhard

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Schellenberg, Jakob Martin

Born 1894; lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 10 May 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schellenberg, Johann

Originally from Rueckenau, Molotschna, moved to the Caucasus to escape arrest

In 1937 he, together with a number of others from Rueckenau, were arrested and exiled from the Caucasus; probably died in exile

So: *Rueckenau* p 187; So: L N

Schellenberg, Johann

Born 1893; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; arrested 25 July 1937; So: L N

Schellenberg, Johann

Moved from Rueckenau to Neu Halbstadt, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; So: L N

Schellenberg, Johann Anton

Born 1893; lived in Nikolaidorf, Molotschna, "Kolkhoz Ossoviakhim" stableman

Arrested 3 December 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist propaganda"

Exiled for 10 years; fate unknown; So: L N

Schellenberg, Johann Anton

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Schellenberg, Johann Johann

Born 1916; lived in Adelsheim, Yazaykovo; student

Arrested in March 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schellenberg, Johann Johann

Born 1886; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazaykovo; arrested in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Schellenberg, Katharina

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin

Husband was one of 26 men arrested in the village, possibly 1 November 1937

With 8 other women, she was arrested 16 November 1937; children put into orphanages

Was released after 3 months, early in 1938, thought to be as a result of the intervention of

Nadezhda Krupskaya; So: L N

Schellenberg, Mr

Lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin

One of 26 men arrested in the village, possibly 1 November 1937

His wife Katharina was also arrested, 16 November, but was released about 3 months later, early 1938; So: L N

Schellenberg, Peter Anton

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Schellenberg, Peter Martin

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schieling, Franz

Born 1892; lived in Orloff, Sagrafovka; farmer

One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; exiled to Siberia; So: L N

Schmidt, Abram Abram

Born 1871; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza

Exiled August 1931 to Arkhangelsk; returned to Chortitza

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt, Abram Abram

Born 1917; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza

Exiled to the Urals June 1931; returned to Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt, Albert

Born 1879; lived in Nikopol; arrested 7 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt, Christian

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt, David

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt, David

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt, Friedrich

Born 1890; lived in Nikopol; arrested 14 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt, Fritz Peter

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt, Heinrich

From Elisabeththal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt Heinrich (Heinz)

Lived in Ak Metchet; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt, Joseph

Born 1900; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Schmidt, Mr

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt, Peter

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmidt, Peter Peter

Age 52; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Schmidt, Peter Peter

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Schmoor, Jakob

Born 1896; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; shot in exile; So: L N

Schoenke, Abram

From Mariawohl, Molotschna; arrested 28 November 1937 together with 5 other men; So: L N

Schoenke, Jakob

From Mariawohl, Molotschna; arrested 28 November 1937; So: L N

Schroeder, Abram

Born 1883; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

Brother of Kornelius Schroeder, age 58, also arrested 1937

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; So: L N

Schroeder, Abram Peter

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schroeder, David Peter

Born 1894; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Schroeder, Gerhard Gerhard

Born 1893; lived in Tiede, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 5 September 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Schroeder, Heinrich Peter

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schroeder, Johann Gerhard

Born 1905; lived in Tiede, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 17 December 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Schroeder, Kornelius

Born in 1879; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka
Brother of Abram Schroeder, age 54, also arrested 1937
One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schroeder, Peter

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; minister; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schroeder, Peter Peter

Born 1889; lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; kolkhoznik
One of the 14 men arrested in the village in 1937
Arrested 20 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist propaganda"
Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Schroeder, Peter Peter

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schulz, Abram

Born 9 February 1893; lived in Nikolaipol (Nikolaifeld), Borissovo; bookkeeper
Arrested and executed in 1937; So: L N

Schulz, Emil Heinrich

Born 1885; from Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; kolkhoznik
Arrested 26 September 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist propaganda"
Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Schulz Heinrich

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Schulz, Jakob Dietrich

Born 1885; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; technician
Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schulz, Jakob Dietrich (also spelled Schultz)

Born 23 September 1886; parents Dietrich Schulz and Anna Wiens
Married Margaretha Janzen 23 July 1913
Five children: Maria, Jakob, Peter, Anna, Margaretha
Originally lived in Schoenwiese/Zaporozhye
Tried to leave Russia in 1928, but did not get passports
Moved from place to place, including Nikopol; lived in Nikopol in 1937

Father Jakob and daughter Margaretha arrested in Nikopol 30 November 1937, while wife was in Zaporozhye

Son Jakob also exiled in 1937

Jakob likely died in exile

Wife Margaretha lived in Novosibirsk in 1962, and died there 2 June 1975

So: *Cities* Vol 2 pp 302-303

Schulz, Jakob Jakob

Born 26 October 1915; parents Jakob Dietrich Schulz and Margaretha Janzen

Father Jakob and sister Margaretha arrested in Nikopol 30 November 1937

Lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; technician; arrested in 1937; fate not known

So: *Cities* Vol 2 p 30; L N

Schulz, Johann

Born 1905; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; warehouse worker

Arrested 8 September 1937; fate unknown; family came to Canada; So: L N

Schulz, Johann

Lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; teacher?; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Schulz, Margaretha

Born 20 August 1886; parents Jakob Dietrich Schulz and Margaretha Janzen

Siblings in the family: Maria, Jakob, Peter, Anna, Margaretha

Originally lived in Schoenwiese/Zaporozhye

Family tried to leave Russia in 1928, but did not get passports

Moved from place to place, including Nikopol; lived in Nikopol in 1937

Father Jakob and daughter Margaretha arrested in Nikopol 30 November 1937, while mother was in Zaporozhye

Brother Jakob also exiled in 1937

Father Jakob likely died in exile

Mother Margaretha lived in Novosibirsk in 1962, and died there 2 June 1975

So: *Cities* Vol 2 pp 30, 302-303

Schulz, Peter

From Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; So: L N

Seel, Christian (Christoff)

Born in 1900; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka; teacher

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Seel, Christian Johann

Born 1901 lived in Miloradovka, Alexandrovka Volost; teacher

One of 2 men arrested in the village in 1937; So: L N

Siebert, Abram

Lived in Konteniusfeld, Molotschna; arrested 15 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Siebert, Heinrich

Lived in Usilie, Caucasus; arrested 1937; died in 1938, likely in exile; So: L N

Siebert, Jakob

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Siebert, Peter Heinrich

Born 1911; lived in Fuerstenwereder, Molotschna; kolkhoznik

Arrested 25 September 1937 for "systematic anti-Soviet agitation"

Sentenced to 8 years exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Siemens, Abram Kornelius

Born 1905; lived in Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; arrested 25 February 1933; returned

Rearrested 1937-1938 in Piatichatka; fate unknown; So: L N

Siemens, Gerhard

Born 1886; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; mechanic

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Siemens, Gerhard

Born 1901; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Siemens, Gerhard Johann

Born 1895; lived in Orloff, Sagradovka; first arrested in 1931; sent to Kherson; returned 1933

One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Siemens, Jakob

Born 1896; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; farmer

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Siemens, Jakob Heinrich

Born 27 September 1883; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; minister

Arrested and exiled to Urals 25 March 1930; returned 1934

Rearrested in Blumengart, Chortitza 27 August 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Siemens, Jakob Jakob

Born 1899; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza: worker

Arrested in 1937; died in 1938; So: L N

Siemens, Johann

Born in 1904; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka; farmer

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Siemens, Peter

Born 1904, lived in Orloff, Sagradovka; farmer; forced to vacate home in 1932

One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Siemens, Peter

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Siemens, Peter

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; labourer; arrested in 1937; So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Spent, Gerhard Kornelius

Born 1911; lived in Podolsk, Neu Samara; worked at "Kolkhoz Rot Front"

Arrested 13 August 1937; died in captivity; rehabilitated; So: L N

Spent, Johann

Born 1909; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Spent, Kornelius

Born 1911; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Stahl, Paul

Born 1892; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 19 December 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Stobbe, D P

Lived in Lindenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937; fate not known; So: L N

Stobbe, Heinrich

Lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Stobbe, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1894; lived in Orloff, Sagradovka; farmer

One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; exiled to Siberia; So: L N

Stobbe, Johann Johann

Born 1895; lived in Krassikov, Neu Samara; cabinet maker

Arrested 14 August 1937

Executed; rehabilitated; So: L N

Stobbe, Peter

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Suckau, Heinrich

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Suckau, Rudolf

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Sudermann, Abram

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyevka; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Sudermann, David Jakob

Born 1910(?); moved from Blumenort, Molotschna to Stavropol

Arrested in Stavropol in 1937; shot in Piatigorsk; So: L N

Sudermann, Heinrich Abram

Born 1889; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; carpenter

Arrested 26 September 1937 for "systematic counter-revolutionary agitation"

Sentenced to 10 years exile in Komi ASSR; later shot, 14 May 1938; So: L N

Sudermann, Heinrich David

Born 6 December 1879; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza: joiner

Arrested 4 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary work in favour of fascist Germany"

Shot 28 December 1938; So: L N

Sudermann, Jakob

Born 1900; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, in the summer; not heard from again; So: L N

Sudermann, Jakob

Lived in Grossweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; exiled without trial; fate unknown

So: L N

Sudermann, Jakob

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Sudermann, Jakob Aron

Born 1901; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Sudermann Jakob David

Born 15 December 1888; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; teacher

Arrested 23 November 1933; sentenced to 5 years exile; shot 15 October 1937; So: L N

Sudermann, Jakob Jakob

Born 18 December 1905; lived in Blumenort, Molotschna

Arrested 22 December 1937; shot in Melitopol; So: L N

Sudermann, Jakob Johann

Born 1872; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; treasurer in "Kolkhoz Dnieprobud"

Arrested 3 November 1937 for "conduct of counter-revolutionary work in support of fascist Germany" shot 9 January 1938; So: L N

Sudermann, Johann

Born in 1903; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Sudermann, Johann Jakob

Born December 1912; lived in Blumenort, Molotschna

Arrested 1937 in Alma Ata; sentenced to 10 years exile; died in Sorokolage camp

9 April 1942; So: L N

Sudermann, Kornelius

Born 1895; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; ironworker

Arrested 17 January 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Sudermann, Kornelius

Lived in Blumenort, Molotschna

Arrested in 1937-1938; sent into exile; died in labour camp; So: L N

Sudermann, Nikolai David

Born 12 May 1898; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 4 November 1937 for "counter revolutionary activity and spreading fascist ideas"

Shot 9 January 1938; So: L N

Sukkau, David Peter

Born 1907; son of Peter Heinrich Sukkau, who was also arrested at the same time

Originally from Rueckenau, Molotschna, moved to the Caucasus to escape arrest

In 1937 he, together with a number of others from Rueckenau, were arrested and exiled from the Caucasus; died 1937

So: *Rueckenau* p 186; L N

Sukkau, Heinrich Peter

Born 1879; lived in Lugovsk, Neu Samara; minister

Member of the "Kolkhoz Thaelmann"

Arrested 31 August 1937; executed; rehabilitated; So: L N

Sukkau, Peter

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Sukkau, Peter Heinrich

From Rueckenau, Molotschna

Brother of Gerhard Sukkau, husband of Elisabeth Huebert of Blumstein/Muensterberg

Arrested February 1930 as a kulak and sent to a labour camp north of Tomsk

Released from exile in 1933

With his family moved to the Caucasus, at first staying there with his brother Gerhard in the Konosavod settlement

In 1937 he, together with a number of others, including Abram and Heinrich Huebert, were arrested and exiled from the Caucasus

His son David Sukkau was also arrested; Peter was not heard from again

So: *Rueckenau* p 186; *The Muensterberg Hueberts*, p 329; L N

Teichgraeb, Jakob

Born 1892; lived in Blumenort, Molotschna

Arrested 1937-1938; died in labour camp; So: L N

Teichgraeb, Nikolai Nikolai

Born before 1890; lived in Blumenort, Molotschna

Arrested 1937-1938; died in labour camp; So: L N

Teichroeb, Johann

Born 1881; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; exiled to near the Mongolian border; returned in 1940; So: L N

Teichroeb, Johann

Born 1888; lived in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka

One of 28 men arrested in the village September to December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Teichroeb, Nikolai

Born 1895; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Teichroeb Mr

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile: So: L N

Teichroeb, Peter H

From Hamberg, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Teichroeb, Peter

Born 9 August 1877; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza

Was widower, married widow Helena Funk; he was arrested 3 September 1937; died in exile

She was on the Great Trek, to Berlin, to Paraguay in 1947 (Berlin Escape?), to Canada in 1952

So: L N

Teichroeb, Peter Heinrich

Born 1885; lived in Konteniusfeld, Molotschna; kolkhoznik

Arrested 15 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary activities"

Shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Thielmann, Gerhard

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Thielmann, Jakob

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Thielmann, Johann

From Petershagen, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Thielmann, Peter

Lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown So: L N

Thiessen, Abram

Lived in Kondratyevka, Borissovo; arrested 1937-1938; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Aron

Lived in Nikolaital, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Bernhard

From Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; brother of Justina Warkentin

Arrested 13 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, David David

Born 1896; lived in Gnadental, Molotschna; veterinary orderly in "Kolkhoz Otto"

Arrested 16 November 1937 for "conducting counter-revolutionary activities"

Shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Thiessen, Dietrich

Born 1893; lived in Felsenbach, Borozenko; farmer; arrested 13 December 1937; So: L N

Thiessen, Dietrich

Born 1897; lived in Felsenbach, Borozenko; farmer; arrested 30 August 1937; So: L N

Thiessen, Dietrich Kornelius

Born 27 December 1870 in Chortitza, Chortitza Colony; father Kornelius Otto Tiessen

Trained as architect in Germany

Married Julie Martens 15 August 1903 in Ekaterinoslav: children: Konstantin, Victor, Paul, Elsa, Hermann

Dietrich worked as architect in Ekaterinoslav for various agencies, mostly railway

To Batum in 1932, then to Baku

Arrested as a fascist spy on 1 September 1937, and executed 16 September 1937

Julie died in a concentration camp about 1945

Daughter Elsa eventually migrated to Germany in 1996, and was alive in 2004

So: *Cities* Vol 2 p 119, 372

Thiessen, Franz Peter

Born 21 October 1919; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza

Arrested 4 November 1937; released 30 January 1939; rearrested 1951-1956

Author of a book about Neuendorf; So: L N

Thiessen, Georg

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Heinrich

Born 1894; lived in Felsenbach, Borozenko; farmer; arrested 30 August 1937; So: L N

Thiessen, Heinrich

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1912; lived in Tiegerweide, Molotschna; club manager in "Kolkhoz Kirov"

Arrested 14 December 1937 for "systematic counter-revolutionary fascist propaganda"

Shot 7 November 1938; So: L N

Thiessen, Heinrich Jakob

Age 63; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Thiessen, Heinrich Jakob

Born 1905; lived in Podolsk, Neu Samara; factory worker; arrested 13 August 1937

Died in captivity; rehabilitated; So: L N

Thiessen, Jakob

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; geologist; wife and three children

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Jakob

Born 1904; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; engineer; had a wife

Arrested 16 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Jakob

Lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo

One of 15 men arrested in the village in 1937

One of two men who returned; Jakob returned in 1939; So: L N

Thiessen, Jakob

From Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 13 December 1937; fate unknown

His wife was also arrested late in the year; So: L N

Thiessen, Jakob

From Kleefeld, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown

His wife and 6 children were arrested one day later; So: L N

Thiessen, Jakob

Lived in Donskoye, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; shot; parents fled via the Amur to China
and eventually to Canada; So: L N

Thiessen, Mrs Jakob

From Kleefeld, Molotschna; husband arrested; she was also arrested 1937-1938;

Six children sent to orphanages; she was sent to Melitopol; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Mrs Jakob

From Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna

Her husband was arrested 13 December 1937

She was arrested late in 1937 and separated from her 3 children, who were sent to different
care homes

Three wives were charged with being "wives of enemies of the people"

She was released early 1938, possibly through the intervention of Nadezhda Krupskaya

With much searching, taking months, she was able to find her children; So: L N

Thiessen, Mrs Jakob

From Kleefeld, Molotschna; her husband was arrested 1937-1938

She was arrested the following day

She was imprisoned, and her 6 children put into orphanages

She and the children were eventually freed; So: L N

Thiessen, Jakob H

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 8 November 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Jakob Jakob

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Thiessen, Jakob Jakob

Born 1891; moved from Neuhorst to Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; minister

Arrested 2 February 1933; returned 1936

Rearrested 18 September 1937; shot; So: L N

Thiessen, Johann

Lived in Gnadental, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Johann

Lived in Klippenfeld, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Johann H

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Johann J

Lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Johann Johann

Born 1900 in Klippenfeld, Molotschna

Lived in Waldheim, worked as a stable hand

Arrested 13 December 1937, charged under section 54-10 paragraph 2 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code "promoting counter-revolutionary activity"

He was shot 7 February 1938 according to instructions of the NKVD; So: L N

Thiessen, Julius Jakob

Born 1 January 1872; lived in Paulsheim, then to Issyl Kul; minister and teacher

Arrested in Issyl Kul in 1937; exiled; So: L N

Thiessen, Kornelius

Born 1910; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; locksmith

Arrested 5 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Thiessen, Mr

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; *Zentralschule* teacher; arrested 1937- 1938; fate unknown
So: L N

Thiessen, Nikolai Gerhard

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Thiessen, Nikolai Heinrich

Born 1903; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna, kolkhoz worker; coachman

Arrested 18 August 1937 for "anti-Soviet agitation against Soviet power"

Shot 14 September 1937; So: L N

Thiessen, Peter

Born 1895; lived in Liebenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; exile; died in exile; So: L N

Thiessen, Peter

Born 1918; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza

Arrested 1937; imprisoned with Franz Thiessen in Zaporozhye

Released; exiled in 1941; So: L N

Thiessen, Peter Franz

Born 1842; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza, moved to Einlage, Chortitza

Arrested 4 November 1937 in Einlage; died 1943; So: L N

Thiessen, Peter Franz

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Thiessen, Peter Peter

Born 1894; moved from Gnadenfeld to Nikolaidorf, Molotschna; kolkhoznik

Member of "Kolkhoz Osoviakhim" arrested 16 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary activities" shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Tiessen, Abram

Born 1872; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Tiessen, Abram Abram

Born 1896; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; appointed official

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Tiessen, Dietrich

Born 1893; lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Tiessen, Dietrich

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; labourer; wife and two children; arrested 1937

So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Tiessen, Franz

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; farmer; wife and two children; arrested 1937

So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Tiessen, Franz

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; locksmith; wife and one child; arrested 1937

So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Tiessen, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1888; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; worker

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Tiessen, Isaak, Isaak

Born 1908; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; kolkhoz member

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Tiessen, Jakob

Born 1883; lived in Adelheim, Yazykovo; farmer

Arrested 3 November 1937; returned April 1938; So: L N

Tiessen, Jakob

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Tiessen, Jakob

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people" released 1947

Died 1995 in Germany; So: L N

Tiessen, Jakob

Lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; survived; deported 13 September 1941

Into the labour army; So: L N

Tiessen, Jakob

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; engineer; wife; arrested 1937; So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Tiessen, Jakob

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza, geological worker; wife and 3 children; arrested 1937

So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Tiessen, Jakob Johann

Lived in Margenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Tiessen, Johann

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Tiessen, Johann Johann

Lived in Margenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Tiessen, Johann Johann

Born 1873; lived in Zaporozhye; mechanic

Arrested 7 September 1937 for “systematic counter-revolutionary work against Soviet power”

Shot 1 January 1938; So: L N

Toews, Abram

Lived in Halbstadt, Molotschna; arrested in 1932; returned

Moved to the Caucasus; arrested there in 1937; died in exile in 1937; So: L N

Toews, Abram

Born 1890; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; shot in exile; So: L N

Toews, Bernhard (Sr)

Lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 11 October 1937; returned in 1947; died in Omsk in the 1950s; So: L N

Toews, Bernhard Bernhard

Lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 20 December 1937;

Toews, David

Born 1888; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Toews, Gerhard

From Tchongrav, Crimea; father of Walter Toews, who was photographer in Winnipeg

Together with a total of 17 men arrested the night of 30 January 1937

Imprisoned in Simferopol; returned home several days later

So: Personal information, Mary Klassen, Winnipeg

Toews, Gustav

From Am Trakt to Ak Metchet in 1931; arrested there 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Toews, Isaak

Born 2 March 1906 in Blumenfeld; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 9 October 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Toews, Isaak Isaak

Born 23 November 1870; lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested October 1937

Shot 31 October 1937; So: L N

Toews, Jakob

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an “enemy of the people” died in exile

So: L N

Toews, Jakob Jakob

Born 12 June 1874; lived in Mariental, Alt Samara; MB elder; first exiled

4 February 1930, released 22 June 1930; rearrested 13 November 1937

Sentenced 2 December 1937; shot 19 February 1938; rehabilitated; So: L N

Toews, Jakob Jakob

Born 14 November 1906; lived in Alexandertal, Alt Samara; peasant (farmer)

Arrested 26 December 1937; sentenced 29 December 1937 to 10 years in exile; fate unknown

Rehabilitated; So: L N

Toews, Johannes

Moved from Am Trakt to Ak Metchet in 1931; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Toews, Johann Nikolai

Lived in Lugovsk, Neu Samara; arrested 31 August 1937; executed; So: L N

Toews, Otto (Jr)

Lived in Ak Metchet; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Toews, Peter Jakob (see biography page 262)

Born 14 January 1897; lived in Ohrloff, Molotschna

Married Elisabeth K Janzen, four children; ordained as minister in 1925

In 1932 imprisoned and sent into exile in Kem, near the White Sea, for three years

Returned home in January 1937, then was again imprisoned and exiled in December 1937

Reported to have died in exile 14 July 1943

Family deported to Siberia in 1943

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 185-186; L N; Personal family history

Toews, Peter Johann

Lived in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; dekulakized and banished from the village 1929-1933

Arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Toews, Peter Isaak

Lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 10 October 1937; shot; So: L N

Toews, Peter P

Lived in Margenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; exiled; fate unknown; So: L N

Unger, Abram

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; bookkeeper; had wife and two children

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Unger, Dietrich

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown

Wife to Paraguay, then Canada; So: L N

Unger, Franz (Sr)

Born 24 March 1889; Gnadental, Baratov to Rotfeld

One of the 4 men arrested in the village in 1937, 26 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Unger, Gerhard

Born 1 December 1899 in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna

Married Helene Reimer 10 January 1923

She was born 2 February 1910 in Fuerstenwerder,

They had one child, Helene, born 10 October 1923 in Fuerstenwerder

Gerhard was arrested 12 May 1937 and not heard from since

Helene died 10 August 1947 in Russia

So: Reimer family history

Unger, Gerhard

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Unger, Heinrich David

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Unger, Heinrich Gerhard

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Unger, Heinrich Heinrich

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; brick factory owner (it was near the forest)

Arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Unger, Hermann

Born 1914; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 16 December 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Unger, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1901; lived in New York, Ignatyev; mechanic; arrested 1937-1938; died during a forced march; So: L N

Unger, Jakob Jakob

Lived in Miloradovka; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Unger, Jakob Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; exiled to Magadan; returned after 10 years

To Karaganda; died in Kirghizia; So: L N

Unger, Jakob Jakob

Born 1900; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Unger, Johann

Married Margaretha Hildebrandt; probably lived in Dnepropetrovsk

Johann arrested in 1937 and shot; So: *Cities* Vol 2 p 126

Unger, Johann Gerhard

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Unger, Julius

Born 1899; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Unger, Julius Peter

Born 30 August 1893; moved from Orenburg to Zentral in 1934; arrested 20 September 1937

Sentenced to 10 years exile; returned to family 20 September 1947; So: L N

Unger, Kornelius Gerhard

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Unger, Leonhard

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; labourer

Wife and 3 children; arrested 1937

So: Johann David Rempel Notes

Unger, Peter

Lived in Kaltan, Neu Samara; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Unger, Peter Peter

Born 1903; lived in Einlage, Chortitza/Zaporozhye; accountant; wife and 3 children

Arrested 7 September 1937 as a "member of German fascist organization"

Shot 10 January 1938; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Unger, Viktor Heinrich

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; died on a forced march; So: L N

Unrau, David David

Born 1894; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Unrau, Jakob

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Unrau, Johann

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Unrau, Kornelius

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Unrau, Peter

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Unrau, Peter Johann

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Unrau, Wilhelm

Lived in Halbstadt, Molotschna; fled to Sivash; arrested there in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Unruh, Abram Peter

Age 57; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Unruh, Heinrich Wilhelm

Born 1900, lived in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; kolkhoznik

Arrested 23 December 1937 as a "member of a terrorist organization"

Shot 28 February 1938; wife Susanna (Janzen) and children to S A; So: L N

Unruh, Jakob

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people" died in exile
So: L N

Unruh, Johann Abram

Born 1904; lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Unruh, Johann Peter

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Unruh, Katharina (nee Bartel)

Wife of Nikolai Peter Unruh, who was arrested October 1937

She lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested and imprisoned 1937; released spring of 1938

She and children to Paraguay, then Canada; So: L N

Unruh, Kornelius Kornelius

Born about 1880 in Ohrloff, Molotschna

Parents Kornelius Benjamin Unruh and Maria Epp

Wife Katharina born about 1883: at least one daughter Maria, born about 1905

In 1912 a practicing lawyer in Ekaterinoslav

On list of refugees to Canada in 1922, but for some reason did not make it

Registered in Chortitza by late 1920s or 1930s

Kornelius arrested 5 September 1937 in Chortitza, jailed and probably shot

Wife Katharina evacuated further east 5 August 1941

So: *Cities* Vol 2 pp 126-127; L N

Unruh, Nikolai Peter

Born 29 March 1895; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; minister

Wife was Katharina Bartel, who was also arrested in 1937

He was arrested October 1937; shot in Melitopol 1 December 1937; So: L N

Vogt, Heinrich

Born 1900; lived in Vladmirovka, Arkadak; arrested 1937; survived; died 1988 in
Nizhnil Tagil; So: L N

Vogt, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1914; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; machinist at the Karl Marx (Engels) Factory
Arrested 12 September 1937; sentenced to 10 years in labour camp; fate unknown; So: L N

Vogt, Johann

Lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Vogt (Vocht?), Johann

Born 1897; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; farmer
Arrested 17 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Vogt, Johann (Hans)

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Von Kampen, Jakob

Married Aganetha Vogt on 7 January 1901; two children
Arrested, and died in exile 5 September 1937
Wife Aganetha died 26 September 1955 in Winnipeg, Canada
So: *Cities Vol 2* p 45

Von Kampen, Peter

Born 1888; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; minister
Arrested 10 September 1937; exiled to Siberia; fate not known; So: L N

Voth, David Peter

Born 1903; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; technician
Arrested 20 December 1937 for "counter-revolutionary agitation and recruiting insurrectional cadres;" shot 11 January 1938 in Dnepropetrovsk; So: L N

Voth, Franz

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Voth, Heinrich

Lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Voth, Heinrich

Born 1906; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Voth, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1914; lived in Schoenau, Sagradovka; exiled to the Urals 21 June 1931; returned
Arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Voth, Heinrich Peter

Lived in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna; arrested, returned, again arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Voth, Jakob

Lived in Alexanderthal, Molotschna; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Voth Jakob

Born 1896; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; bookkeeper; arrested 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Voth, Jakob Tobias

Born 1890; lived in Lugovsk, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; died in captivity; So: L N

Voth Johann

Born 1900; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Voth, Johann Abram

Born 1912; moved from Mariental to Waldheim, Molotschna; chief accountant at the

Rotfront Consumers Association; arrested 13 December 1937 for "anti-Soviet agitation"
Shot 17 February 1938; So: L N

Voth, Johann Heinrich

Born 1890; lived in Gnadental, Molotschna; in "Kolkhoz Otto"

Arrested 30 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist activity among German population;" shot 6 December 1937; So: L N

Voth, Peter

From Friedensfeld, Sagradovka

One of 18 men arrested in the village in 1937

Also arrested David Geddert

Accused of being in a "German-organized counter-revolutionary group"

Taken to prison in Kronau, there tortured, physically and mentally - broke down,
taken to the jail hospital

Since they could not get a confession from him in Kronau, he was taken to a death-cell in
Dnepropetrovsk

Constantly threatened that he would be shot

After much torture sentenced to 3 years exile in the North

Eventually he and David Geddert were released and returned home; So: L N

Voth, Peter

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Voth, Peter P

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Walde, Jakob Cornelius

Born 17 March 1890; lived in Liebenau, Molotschna ; teacher

Arrested in 1937; died in exile 7 February 1942; So: L N

Wall, Bernhard

Until 1927 teacher in Dolinsk, Neu Samara; teacher in Kodaga, Crimea from 1927 to 1932

1932-1935 student at the Simferopol Pedagogical Institute

1935-1937 teacher at the German *Musterschule* in Spat, Crimea

July 1937 arrested, stayed in prison in Simferopol until 1940

David Dueck of Kodaga was arrested in 1938

Both were sentenced to five years of forced labour in Siberia. The last letter from Bernhard
came in April 1941, when he was working in a cement factory near Omsk

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 212; So: L N

Wall, Cornelius Heinrich

Born 26 June 1900 in Davlekanovo; married Marie Jakob Neufeld

Arrested 1937; died in exile 26 July 1943 in a camp in Siberia

So: Neufeld Family History, Gerhard Neufeld, Ufa, Russia

Wall, David

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Wall, Dietrich Gerhard

Born 1894; lived in Pordenau, Molotschna; worked in "Kolkhoz Agrotechnik"

Arrested 30 November 1937 for "counter-revolutionary fascist propaganda"

Shot 11 December 1937; So: L N

Wall, Heinrich

Lived in Pordenau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wall, Heinrich

Lived in Sparrau, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; executed; So: L N

Wall, Heinrich

Born 1895; lived in Usilie, Caucasus; arrested 1937; shot; So: L N

Wall, Heinrich Jakob

Born 1917; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza

Arrested 9 September 1937; sentenced to 8 years; deported to Agricultural Work Camp No 36

Fate unknown; So: L N

Wall, Hermann

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Wall, Jakob

Born 1908; lived in Nieder-Chortitza, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Wall, Jakob Boris

Born 1911; lived in Podolsk, Neu Samara; worked on "Rot Front Kolkhoz"

Arrested 13 August 1937; died in captivity; rehabilitated; So: L N

Wall, Jakob Franz

Lived in Murawjewka; exiled to Arkhangelsk 30 March 1930; arrested 1937; died in prison or camp; So: L N

Wall, Johann Gerhard

Born 1883; lived in Alt Samara (village not recorded), peasant (farmer)

Arrested 17 September 1937; sentenced 2 December 1937; shot 1 January 1938

Rehabilitated; So: L N

Wall, Johann Gerhard

Born 26 April 1901; lived in Neuhoftnung, Alt Samara; kolkhoznik

Arrested 25 December 1937; sentenced 29 December 1937; shot 19 February 1938

Rehabilitated; So: L N

Wall, Johannes Johannes

Born 1880; lived in Schoenau, Alt Samara; exiled to Arkhangelsk region; arrested 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Wall, Julius

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wall, Kornelius Johann

Lived in Davlekanovo, Ufa; bookkeeper; brother-in-law of Dr Gerhard Neufeld

Arrested 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Wall, Kornelius K

Lived in Hohendorf, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937; shot; So: L N

Wall, Mr

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Wall, Peter

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Wall, Wilhelm (Willi)

Lived in Bergtal, Aulie Ata; arrested 1937-1938; shot; So: L N

Wallmann, Abram

Born 1913; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 16 November 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Wallmann, Abram Jakob

Born 22 April 1879; lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; involved with "Kolkhoz 1 May"
Arrested 1 October 1937 for "ant-Soviet agitation" shot in Balashov 13 October 1937; So: L N

Wallmann, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 5 July 1911; born in Trubetskoi, then lived in Nikolaifeld, Sagradovka; farmer
One of 8 men arrested in the village in 1937; exiled to Irkutsk; fate unknown; So: L N

Wallmann, Jakob

Born 1901; lived in Tiege, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 16 July 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Warkentin, Aaron

Born 1874; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; died in exile; So: L N

Warkentin, Aaron

Born 1903; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; later released; So: L N

Warkentin, Abam

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Warkentin, David

Born 1892; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; arrested 5 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Warkentin, David

Born 2 March 1900

Married Katharina Reimer in 1923. She was born 21 May 1900 in the Orenburg Colony
The couple had 5 children, the first four born in Ufa, the last one in Kemerovo, Asiatic
Russia

David was arrested 27 November 1937 and not heard from since

Katharina died 27 July 1978 in Russia

So: Reimer family history

Warkentin, Dietrich

Lived in Ebenfeld, Caucasus; minister; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Warkentin, Dietrich Gerhard

Born 1887; lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; teacher; arrested 23 November 1937; sentenced to
10 years for "anti-Soviet activity" fate unknown; So: L N

Warkentin, Emilie (nee Ulbrecht)

Lived in Lindenau, Molotschna; husband Jakob Warkentin had earlier been arrested

She was arrested in late 1937, and her 5 children placed in orphanages

Emilie jailed in Melitopol

A number of women wrote to Nadezhda Krupskaya, widow of Lenin

She is credited with freeing them from jail;

Repatriated to USSR from the Great Trek; So: L N

Warkentin, Gerhard

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 16 December 1937, same day as brother Jakob
Fate unknown; So: L N

Warkentin, Heinrich

Born 1896; lived in Gnadenheim, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Warkentin, Heinrich Gerhard

Born 1894; lived in Friedensruh, Molotschna; club manager

Arrested 3 December 1937 for “counter-revolutionary activity preparing insurrection force”

Sentenced to exile for 10 years; fate unknown; So: L N

Warkentin, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1895; lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; kolkhoznik; arrested 6 November 1937

Sentenced to 5 years exile; died in exile; So: L N

Warkentin, Jakob

From Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna

Was an avid hunter, rabbits and foxes, to supplement their meager food

In the autumn of 1937 his hunting license was revoked

He was arrested 16 December 1937; he was allowed to go home, say his farewells, take along the package of clothes that had been prepared in advance, and reported to the police station in Waldheim, Molotschna

His wife, Justina (nee Thiessen) was not arrested because she was pregnant; 17 December was her twenty-eighth birthday

Son Jakob was born 9 March 1938. He never saw his father; So: L N

Warkentin, Jakob

Lived in Lindenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937; fate unknown

Wife Emilie Ulbrecht also arrested in 1937; released; repatriated; So: L N

Warkentin, Jakob

Born 1888; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 17 November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Warkentin, Jakob David

Born 1883; lived in Lugovsk, Neu Samara; worked on “Kolkhoz Thaelmann”

Arrested 9 September 1937; executed; rehabilitated; So: L N

Warkentin, Jakob Kornelius

Born 1904; lived in Waldheim, Molotschna

Cutter in co-op Glinokop (clay diggers)

Arrested 4 December 1937 for “counter-revolutionary propaganda” shot 5 February 1938

So: L N

Warkentin, Johann

Lived in Podolsk, Neu Samara Colony, minister, arrested 1937, banished to a labour camp in the Woruka region; dying, thrown out of the camp into the snow; died there

So: Gerlach, *Bildband zur Geschichte der Mennoniten*, p 94

Warkentin, Johann

Born 1899; lived in Gruenfeld, Schlachtin; farmer

Along with 4 other men and Sonja Hammer, arrested 10 September 1937 in Gruenfeld

Was later released; So: L N

Warkentin, Johann

Lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; teacher; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Warkentin, Johann

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an “enemy of the people” died in exile

So: L N

Warkentin, Johann Heinrich

Born 1900; lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; cabinetmaker; arrested 20 April 1937
Sentenced to 10 years; survived; went to Siberia; died there 1958; So: L N

Warkentin, Johann Johann

Born 1881; from Kadagai to Blumstein, Molotschna; receiver in village flour mill
Arrested 16 December 1937 for "fascist propaganda"
Shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Warkentin, Martin

Born 1877; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka
One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December
They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days
Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman
Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.
Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Warkentin, Peter, Family

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza
Father Peter Warkentin, machinist, arrested 23 September 1936
Wife **Maria (nee Thiessen)**; born 14 May 1906; housewife
Arrested 11 September 1937; exiled; found in Kazakhstan by her son; died there in 1985
Daughter **Anna**; born 10 July 1928; arrested 11 September 1937; released 24 September 1937
Lived with grandparents; disappeared during the war
Son **Peter**; born 12 November 1934; taken 11 September 1937; released 24 September 1937
Lived with grandparents; on the Great Trek; repatriated; moved to mother in Kazakhstan
So: L N

Wedel, Heinrich

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Wedel, Wilhelm

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Abram

Born 1901; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Abram

Born 1905; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; farmer; arrested 14 December 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Wiebe, Abram

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe Abram

Born 1917; lived in Blumenort, Sagrafovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Abram Abram

Born 11 January 1897; lived in Lichtenau, Molotschna; arrested 1937; fate unknown
Wife and daughter to Canada; So: L N

Wiebe, Abram Peter

Born 30 September 1888; lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; involved in kolkhoz
Arrested 25 September 1937; sentenced to 10 years exile; died in province of Jousk, Siberia
on 30 May 1938; So: L N

Wiebe, Aron Johann

Born 1911; lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; arrested 18 November 1937; sentenced to 10 years as "member of anti-Soviet group" fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Bernhard

Born 1891; lived in Adelheim, Yazykovo; farmer

Arrested 4 September 1937; fate unknown; family repatriated; So: L N

Wiebe, Bernhard Bernhard

Born 1914; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; kolkhoz member; arrested 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Wiebe, David

Born 1885; lived in Rosenort, Sagradovka; EMB minister

Exiled 1931, returned 1936

The only man arrested in Rosenort in 1937, 16 November 1937; So: L N

Wiebe, David David

Born 1914; lived in Lidyeveka, Arkadak; kolkhoznik; arrested 16 December 1937

Sentenced to 8 years for "ant-Soviet activities" fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Dietrich

Born 1882; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Dietrich Dietrich

Eldest son of *Knochenarzt* Wiebe of Lichtfelde, Molotschna

Married a Neufeld girl from Silberfeld

May 1929 they were forced from their home in Lichtfelde

Went to the Caucasus, where they lived for a while with relatives, Jakob J Harms

Four brothers, Dietrich, Peter, Jakob and Nikolai all arrested at the same time in 1937

He was sentenced to 5 years in exile

When the war with Germany broke out he was released

His wife, however, had died before his return

In 1941 he and other Mennonites in the area were evacuated to northern Kazakhstan,
where he died in 1945

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 87

Wiebe, Dirk

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Franz

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; executed; brother Jakob was chairman of the kolkhoz; So: L N

Wiebe, Gerhard Gerhard

Born 1905 in Hierschau, Molotschna; son of Gerhard Wiebe and Katharina Penner of
Wirtschaft No 29; member of junior choir in the 1920s

Wife Margaretha Fast of Hierschau; 2 children

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; family still lived in Hierschau during German occupation

So: *Hierschau* p 309; Susanna Friesen, sister of Gerhard Wiebe, personal interview

Wiebe, Gerhard Gerhard

Born 1909; from Hierschau, Molotschna; went to Halbstadt; arrested in 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Wiebe, Heinrich

Born 1898; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Heinrich

Born 1912; lived in Blumenort, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Heinrich

Born 1895; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 4 June 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Heinrich Gerhard

Born 1900; originally from Hierschau, Molotschna

Secretary of the Gnadenfeld volost; sent letter to D M Hofer in 1924 thanking for help

Later lived in Chortitza, Chortitza

Arrested in October 1937; fate unknown; So: L N; *Hierschau* p 254

Wiebe, Heinrich Heinrich

Born 1901; originally from Hierschau, Molotschna

Arrested 15 December 1937 for "counter-revolutionary agitation among German population, to destroy Soviet power"

Shot 1 February 1938; So: L N

Wiebe, Heinrich Jakob

Born 7 December 1899; lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 137; shot 1937; So: L N

Wiebe, Isaak Peter

Born 1913; moved from Zentral to Chortitza with his family; arrested there 1937-1938

Fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Jakob

Born 1887; lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza; minister

One of the 17 men arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937

Not heard from since; So: L N

Wiebe, Jakob

Born 1903; originally from Franzfeld

Lived in Einlage, Chortitza; construction worker on the Dniepr Dam

Arrested 5 September 1937 for sabotage; sentenced to death; So: L N

Wiebe, Jakob

Born 1903; lived in Hochfeld, Yazykovo; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Jakob

Originally from Rueckenau, Molotschna, moved to the Caucasus to escape arrest

In 1937 he, together with a number of others from Rueckenau, were arrested and exiled from the Caucasus

So: *Rueckenau* p 187; L N

Wiebe, Jakob

Born 1892; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; farmer

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Jakob

Born 1886; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; arrested 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Wiebe, Jakob

Likely from Schoeneberg, Chortitza

Together with Abram Rempel was asked to help in the leadership of the MB Church,

likely about 1934

The leader of the church, Minister Bernhard Dyck of Hochfeld had been exiled, and the church asked them to serve

Arrested, together with 16 other men from Schoeneberg on 29 October 1937; exiled

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I pp 258-261

Wiebe, Jakob

Born 1904; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagrafovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Jakob

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested in 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people" shot in exile

So: L N

Wiebe, Jakob Jakob

Born 18 January 1896; lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; chairman of the kolkhoz

Arrested 1937; shot 1937; So: L N

Wiebe, Jakob (Jasch) Dietrich

Son of *Knochenarzt* Dietrich Wiebe of Lichtfelde, Molotschna

The only one of the children to carry on the family tradition of being *Knochenarzt*

Married Helena Janzen from the Crimea, they had one daughter Edith.

Only training seemed to be to carry on the traditions of his father. Treatments consisted of manipulation, advice, and bottles of "*Wieben Oel*" or "*Neunerlei Oel*"

It was claimed that most children in the area were treated by rubbing their heads with these medications - this stopped the head from growing too large!

Jasch saw patients on Monday and Friday - 150 each day!

In 1929 forced to leave Lichtfelde, went to Melitopol

Challenged for his medical competence; was apparently able to piece together a skeleton, so he was allowed to continue to practise

Even so, in time they fled to the Caucasus region, where the other brothers had already gone

Four brothers, Dietrich, Peter, Jakob and Nikolai all arrested at the same time in 1937

Jakob sentenced to 10 years exile; last message was that he had died

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II pp 86-89

Wiebe, Jakob Jakob

Born 1 April 1903 on Bergmannsthal Estate; parents Jakob Jakob Wiebe and Justina J Dyck

Lived in Schoenwiese, Chortitza; married Maria Braun 10 November 1928; 3 children

Died 5 September 1937 in exile; So: *Cities* Vol 2 p 48

Wiebe, Jakob Jakob

Born 3 March 1914; lived in Zaporozhye

Parents died; taken in by friends; went to work in Zaporozhye

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Jakob Peter

Born 1908; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; farmer

Arrested 27 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Johann

Born 1888; lived in Rosengart, Chortitza; accountant

Arrested 24 November 1937

Exiled to Arkhangelsk area; So: L N

Wiebe, Johann

Born 1885; lived in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka; worked for NKVD as village informant
Was the last to be arrested in the village; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Johann

Born 1888; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; minister
Arrested 27 December 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Wiebe, Johann

Born 1909; lived in Bahndorf (Orlov), Memrik; arrested 6 May 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Johann Gerhard

Born 5 April 1900 in Margenau, Molotschna; in 1937 lived in Grossweide, Molotschna
Arrested in 1937; died in Siberia; So: L N

Wiebe, Johann Johann

Born 1907; lived in Tiegenhagen, Molotschna; kolkhoznik
Arrested 23 October 1937 as a "member of counter-revolutionary organization"
Sentenced to 10 years in exile; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Johann Johann

Born 1888; lived in Novoslobidka; accountant for the construction of Stalin railway
Arrested 23 November 1937; sentenced to 10 years exile; died in Arkhangelsk; So: L N

Wiebe, Johann Johann

Born 30 September 1888; lived in Borissopol, Arkadak; brigadier in the kolkhoz
Arrested 15 December 1937; sentenced to 10 years exile for "anti-Soviet activity"
Fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Kornelius David

Born 1888; lived in Vyazemskoye, Arkadak; arrested 8 September 1937; sentenced to 10 years
exile on 29 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Martin Jakob

Born 1876; lived in Nikolaifeld, Yazykovo
Arrested in 1937; returned soon after the arrest; So: L N

Wiebe, Nicolas Abram

Born 19 May 1903; lived in Lichtenau; arrested in 1937; fate unknown
Wife and daughter likely repatriated; So: L N

Wiebe, Nikolai

Born 1896; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Wiebe, Nikolai (Kolya) Dietrich

Son of *Knochenarzt* Dietrich Wiebe of Lichtfelde, Molotschna
Married Justina Penner, daughter of Minister Peter Penner of Lichtfelde, Molotschna
When the wealthy Wiebes lost their possessions, Nikolai and family also became poor
He had a small income as a photographer
They had Justina's orphaned sister with them; also fled to the Caucasus Region
Four brothers, Dietrich, Peter, Jakob and Nikolai all arrested at the same time in 1937
Nikolai arrested and sentenced to 8 years in exile
Sister Helena took care of Mother Wiebe until she died in 1933
Helena herself was able to get to Canada after WW II
So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 88

Wiebe, Otto Peter

Born 1905; lived in Boronger, Crimea; minister; arrested 2 February 1937; exiled to Norlisk
Freed 1949; went to Karaganda; rearrested 1963; died in prison 1964; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter

Born 1890; lived in Neuendorf, Chortitza; arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter

Born 1901; lived in Neu-Schoensee, Sagradovka; farmer
One of 16 men arrested in the village in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter

Born 1918; lived in Adelsheim, Yazaykovo; student
Arrested 1 July 1937; exiled to 8 years in the north near Finland; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; mechanic; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter Dietrich

Second oldest son of *Knochenarzt* Dietrich Wiebe of Lichtfelde, Molotschna

Married Elisabeth Tessmann of Marienthal, Molotschna

They had two sons, Helmut and Oskar

Peter had gone to Germany to visit and study

Wife Elisabeth had also been in Germany to study in a Mission School in Berlin

Four brothers, Dietrich, Peter, Jakob and Nikolai all arrested at the same time in 1937

Condemned to death, but not sure if the sentence was actually carried out

Son Helmut died while studying in Rostov during World War II

Wife Elisabeth and son Oskar were evacuated to South Kazakhstan. She broke her arm and
eventually died, likely of complications, on 18 October 1942

So: *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 87-88

Wiebe, Peter Jakob

Born 7 September 1897; lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; shot 1937; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter Johann

Born 1913, lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; farmer; arrested 4 September 1937; fate unknown
So: L N

Wiebe, Peter Peter

Born 1880; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza
Arrested 2 February 1933, taken from Zentral to Tokmak
Returned to Chortitza, where he was again arrested, in 1937; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter Peter

Born 1900; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; farmer
Arrested 27 December 1937; fate unknown ; family to Canada; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter Peter (see biography p 263)

Born 8 April 1900 likely in Chortiza, Chortitza; bookkeeper
Married Elisabeth Loewen, who was born 8 May 1900
Children: Peter, Walter, Susanna, Paul, Aganetha (Nettie)
Arrested 15 December 1937, and never heard from again

Family left Russia 1943, by train, to Poland, then East Friesland, then after 5 years in Germany to Canada, landing in Quebec 18 August 1948

So: Paul Wiebe, Winnipeg, Canada

Wiebe, Peter Peter

Born 1904; lived in Lindenau, Molotschna

Married Elisabeth Toews in April 1937

He was arrested 28 October 1937, and exiled to Siberia

In December 1937 he was in the Urals

Died in a labour camp

Elisabeth remained in Lindenau, conscripted in 1941 to dig tank traps

Great Trek to Poland, repatriated to USSR, married widower Johann Nickel, to Germany in 1990; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter Peter

Born 1907; moved to Chortitza, Chortitza, likely from Zentral

Arrested in 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter Peter

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter Peter

Born 1907; lived in Leonidovka, Arkadak; kolkhoznik; arrested 16 December 1937

Sentenced to 8 years for "anti-Soviet agitation" died in exile; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter Peter

Born 1880; lived in Zentral, Voronezh Oblast; exiled from Zentral to Omsk 2 February 1930

Returned, moved to Chortitza with his family; arrested there 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiebe, Peter Peter

Born 1907; moved from Zentral to Chortitza with his family; arrested in Chortitza region 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Abram

Lived in Friedensfeld, Borozenko; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Abram (Sr)

Born 1893; lived in Orloff, then to Alexanderkrone, Sagra dovka

One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; actually arrested in Alexanderkrone
So: L N

Wiens, Abram (Jr)

Lived in Orloff, then to Alexanderkrone, Sagra dovka

One of 14 Mennonite men arrested in the village in 1937; actually arrested in Alexanderkrone
So: L N

Wiens, Abram Abram

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; died during forced march; So: L N

Wiens, Abram Abram

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Abram Peter

Born 1901; lived in Kleefeld, Molotschna; storekeeper; "Kolkhoz Bolshe"

Arrested 3 December 1937 as a "member of a fascist organization"

Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown ; So: L N

Wiens, Abram Peter Mrs (Tina)

Lived in Kleefeld, Molotschna; husband arrested; Tina was arrested and sent to Melitopol
Her fate is not known; daughter went to orphanage; So: L N

Wiens, Boris Peter

Born 1872; moved from Tiegerweide to Gnadental, Molotschna; individual farmer
Arrested 30 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary nationalist propaganda"
Shot 17 November 1937; So: L N

Wiens, David Peter

Born 1905; lived in Kronstal, Chortitza; worker
Resettled; exiled to Siberia in 1930; escaped 1932; rearrested 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Wiens, Dietrich

Born 1898; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Franz

Born 1908; lived in Blumenort, Molotschna
Arrested in 1937; shot 10 November 1937 in Melitopol; So: L N

Wiens, Gerhard

Lived in Kasbek, Caucasus; arrested 1936-1937 as an "enemy of the people"; released 1947
Died 1958; So: L N

Wiens, Gerhard

Lived in Lugovsk, Neu Samara, horse trainer; arrested 9 September 1937; died in captivity
So: L N

Wiens, Heinrich

From Elisabethtal, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; So: L N

Wiens, Heinrich

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Heinrich

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Heinrich

Born 1888; lived in Neu-Hoffnung, Caucasus; arrested 1937-1938; tortured to death during
interrogation; So: L N

Wiens, Heinrich

Lived in Lugovsk, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; died 1943; So: L N

Wiens, Hermann

Born 1901; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; one of 17 men arrested from village
Arrested 17 November 1937, informers were Peter Boldt and Otto Hein; fate unknown
So: L N

Wiens, Hermann

Born 1909; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer
Arrested 19 October 1931; returned
Rearrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Isaak

Born 1910; lived in Friedensfeld, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Isaak

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Jakob

Born 1885; from Klippenfeld, Molotschna

Accountant working in the kolkhoz office; arrested in 1937, probably shot; So: L N

Wiens, Jakob

Moved from Friedensdorf to Tiege, Molotschna

Arrested in 1937 in Tiege; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Jakob

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown ; So: L N

Wiens, Jakob

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Jakob Abram

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1906; from Fabrikerwiese, Molotschna; letter carrier

Arrested 13 November 1937 for “preparing armed revolution against Soviet power”

Shot 14 January 1938; So: L N

Wiens, Jakob Heinrich

Born 1900; lived in Schoenhorst, Chortitza; worker; arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Wiens, Jakob Jakob

Born 1895; lived in Klippenfeld, Molotschna; bookkeeper in kolkhoz office

Arrested in 1937; fate unknown ; So: L N

Wiens, Johann

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown ; So: L N

Wiens, Johann

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Wiens, Johann G

From Lindenau, Molotschna ; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Wiens, Johann Gerhard

Born 1904; moved from Waldheim to Sparrau; carpenter

Arrested 15 November 1937 for “counter-revolutionary activity among German population”

Shot 1 January 1938; So: L N

Wiens Johann Johann

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Wiens, Mr

From Kleefeld, Molotschna; arrested in 1937-1938

His wife Tina was arrested the next day. She was pregnant, and had 2 children; So: L N

Wiens, Nikolai

Born ca 1890; lived in Dolinovka, Memrik; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Nikolai Peter

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Wiens, Peter

Lived in Friedensdorf, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Peter

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Wiens, Peter (Sr)

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Wiens, Peter

Lived in New York, Ignatyev; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Peter

Born 1907; lived in Leningrad; son-in-law of David Dyck of Leningrad; arrested 1937

Fate unknown; So: L N

Wiens, Peter Peter (Jr)

Lived in Schoensee, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; So: L N

Wiens, Tina

From Kleefeld, Molotschna; her husband was arrested 1937-1938

She was arrested the following day

Tina was pregnant at the time, with 2 children

She was imprisoned, and the children put into an orphanage

Tina and the children were eventually freed; So: L N

Willms, Abram Johann

Born 1883; lived in Grossweide, Molotschna

Cabinet maker in "Kolkhoz Rosa Luxembourg"

Arrested 12 November 1937; shot 14 January 1938; So: L N

Willms, Abram Peter

Born 1896; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; bookkeeper; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Willms, Dietrich Gerhard

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in prison in Melitopol; So: L N

Willms, Dietrich Kornelius

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Willms, Gerhard

Born 26 November 1914; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 8 September 1937; sentenced to 10 years, exiled 9 January 1938; never heard from again; So: L N

Willms, Gerhard Gerhard

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in prison in Melitopol; So: L N

Willms, Gerhard Heinrich

Born 1880; lived in Hamberg, Molotschna; carpenter

Arrested 2 November 1937 for "systematic counter-revolutionary propaganda to benefit German fascism;" shot 5 February 1938; So: L N

Willms, Gerhard Kornelius

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Willms, Gerhard Peter

Born 1891; lived in Alexanderkrone, Molotschna; stableman

Arrested 3 December 1937 for "raising personnel for an uprising"

Exiled for 10 years; fate unknown; So: L N

Willms, Gerhard Peter

Born 10 February 1895; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; farmer

Arrested 8 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Willms, Heinrich

Born 1900; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; bookkeeper
Arrested 16 December 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Willms, Jakob

Born 1884; lived in Adelsheim, Yazykovo; farmer
Arrested 4 September 1937; fate unknown; family repatriated; So: L N

Willms, Jakob Gerhard

Lived in Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; died in prison in Melitopol; So: L N

Willms, Johann (Hans)

From Kleefeld, Molotschna; brother-in-law of Heinrich Martens
Arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; wife Klara also arrested; So: L N

Willms, Klara

Lived in Kleefeld, Molotschna; arrested 1937-1938; husband Johann (Hans) also arrested
Sent to Melitopol, children to orphanages; fate unknown ; So: L N

Willms, Johann Heinrich

Born 1900; Friedensdorf, Molotschna ; technical expert
Arrested 3 December 1937 for "conducting counter-revolutionary propaganda"
Sentenced to 10 years exile; fate unknown ; So: L N

Willms, Kornelius

Born 1912; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; locksmith
Arrested 16 January 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Winter, Franz

Born 24 August 1924; lived in Neuenburg, Chortitza; farmer; had wife and five children
Arrested 19 September 1937; fate unknown
Wife and children eventually to Winnipeg, Canada; So: L N

Winter, Jakob

Born 13 January 1903; lived in Chortitza, Chortitza; bookkeeper
Arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Winter, Jakob Jakob

Born 1907; lived in Osterwick, Chortitza; coachman
Arrested 1931; dekulakized; labour camp until 1933; returned
Rearrested 1937; sentenced to 10 years exile; So: L N

Winter, Johann

Born 14 May 1900; lived in Einlage, Chortitza; electrical worker; had a wife
Arrested 29 August 1937; fate unknown; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Winter, Peter

Born 27 September 1937; lived in Einlage, Chortitza
Bookkeeper; wife and two children
Arrested 7 September 1937; fate unknown; So: L N; Johann David Rempel Notes

Wittenberg, Alexander Peter

Lived in Donskoye, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wittenberg, Peter Abram

Born 1881; lived in Donskoye, Neu Samara; bookkeeper; arrested 8 October 1937
Shot soon thereafter; So: L N

Wittenberg, Peter Peter

Lived in Donskoye, Neu Samara; arrested 1937; released 1939; into work army 1942-1947

So: L N

Woelk, Franz

From Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937, and was shot; So: L N

Woelk, Franz Isaak

Lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna

Dekulakized in 1930, forced to leave; went to Paulsheim, Molotschna

Arrested 1937 in Paulsheim; So: L N

Woelk, Heinrich Jakob

Born 1894; lived in Paulsheim, Molotschna; worked on "Kolkhoz Kirov"

Arrested 24 October 1937 for "counter-revolutionary agitation"

Shot 23 November 1937; So: L N

Woelk, Isaak Isaak

Age 60; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Woelk, Jakob

Born 1890; lived in Kronau; accountant in a bank; arrested October 1937; exiled to a labour camp; died there 1945; So: L N

Woelk, Jakob Isaak

Age 60; lived in Rudnerweide, Molotschna; arrested in 1937; died in exile; So: L N

Woelk, Kornelius

From Fuerstenwerder, Molotschna; arrested 7 September 1937; fate unknown

So: L N; *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol II p 443

Woelk, Peter

Born 1904; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; worker; arrested 27 November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Wolf, Dietrich

Lived in Kolontarovka, Caucasus; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Wolf, Peter

Born 1891, lived in Altona, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 27 November 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Wolf, Wilhelm

Born 1910; lived in Altona, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 16 December 1937; fate unknown

So: L N

Worms, Franz

Lived in Ekaterinovka, Ignatyev; arrested 1937-1938; fate unknown; So: L N

Worms, Nikolai

Lived in Yakovlevo; arrested 1937-1938, fate unknown; So: L N

Zacharias, Abram

From Lindenau, Molotschna

Arrested in 1937; released, on Great Trek to Poland

Repatriated to USSR, where he died; So: L N

Zacharias, David

Born 1887; lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka; farmer; arrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Zacharias, Kornelius Jakob

Born 26 February 1898; estate owner's son; from Eigenfeld to Franzfeld, Yazykovo

Arrested October 1929 and exiled to Urals; returned; rearrested 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Zacharias, Peter

Lived in Dmitrovka, Arkadak; arrested in 1937; fate unknown; So: L N

Zacharias, Wilhelm

Born 1896; lived in Marianovka, Arkadak; arrested 6 November 1937; returned to family in Siberia in 1947; died there; So: L N

Zehrt, Kornelius Kornelius

Age 37; moved from Sparrau to Rudnerweide, Molotschna; blacksmith; arrested 1937; So: L N

Zorn, Johann

Born 1903; lived in Steinau, Nepluyevka

One of the 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, one of the 18 men arrested 12 December

They gathered at the Steinau *Dorfclub*, with provisions for 3 days, underwear for 2 days

Taken to Nikopol by horse and wagon, accompanied by Daniel Krause, kolkhoz chairman

Instead of going to the military offices they were taken to the NKVD offices and arrested.

Soon transferred to Dnepropetrovsk, then never heard from again. Presumed shot; So: L N

Brief Biographies

Of Some of the Victims
Arrested in 1937

PETER JAKOB ANDRES
(1878-1937?)

Peter Andres was born 2 March 1878 in Mariawohl, Molotschna. Presumably he attended the local *Dorfschule*. Heinrich Unruh, later elder of the Halbstadt Mennonite Church, was the teacher from 1881 to 1887, so he must have taught Peter for the last two years. Peter married Katharina Penner, born 19 June 1880, who came from Rudnerweide. They settled in Mariawohl. The couple had 11 children: (one source says 15)

1. Anna - born 1 February 1903, married Heinrich H Epp on 25 April 1925, migrated to Canada via Germany in 1929, lived in Vineland, Ontario
2. Katharina - born 28 November 1904, married Heinrich H Janzen on 30 August 1923, migrated to Canada in 1925, Heinrich became a minister and well-known Bible teacher in Canada and Europe
3. Elisabeth - born 31 December 1906, died 30 August 1915
4. Peter (first) - born 1 August 1908, died 7 April 1910
5. Susanna (Susa) - born 23 June 1910, exiled to Siberia, later found the family, died of cancer 20 May 1986
6. Justina (Justa) - born 28 March 1912, married Aron Regehr, who was arrested and exiled in 1937, she went on the Great Trek, was repatriated
7. Peter (second) - born 21 April 1914, died 8 November 1914
8. Peter (third) - born 6 September 1916, married a nurse named Anna, evacuated to the Ural Mountains in 1941
9. Johann - born 19 March 1918, died 19 August 1920
10. Lina - born 19 March 1921, died in Siberia on the way to exile with her parents
11. Luise - born 5 October 1922, died in Siberia on the way to exile with her parents

The Andres settled in Mariawohl, where in time they were considered to be wealthy. They had a beautiful *Wirtschaft*; besides farming, Peter owned a small lumberyard and sold foreign-built agricultural machinery. He bought wheat in the villages for the steam-powered Neufeld flour mill in Waldheim. Through his business activities Peter was well known in the Mennonite community. The Andres house was large, so in the 1920s they made it available for evangelistic services and Bible conferences. Old and young benefitted, many coming to the Lord. Future son-in-law Heinrich H Janzen was at some of these meetings. Through the auspices of J F Harms of Hillsboro, Kansas, the Andres provided economic help to poor ministers of the Molotschna, should they migrate to Canada. The irony of the situation was that some of these funds were actually used to send food packages to the Andres during the famine of 1921-1923.

With implementation of Soviet policies in the early 1930s, particularly that of collectivization, Peter Andres and at least



Katharina and Peter Andres

three other families in Mariawohl were labeled kulaks and were forced off their land. Peter himself was disenfranchised, therefore having no rights, and very little opportunity for employment. Peter, wife Katharina and their remaining five children were exiled to Siberia, to the tundra of the far north. On the way their two youngest daughters, Lina and Luise, died. Peter soon noticed that it was not possible to even subsist where they had been sent, so they fled back to European Russia, to their old



Katharina Andres at her eightieth birthday celebration 2 July 1960

home region. Here he virtually went into hiding for a number of years. He found work as a watchman for fields, protecting the melons, watermelons and potatoes against thieves and crows. Daughter Susanna was reported to the authorities, jailed, then condemned to 20 years hard labour in exile.

But even in hiding there were risks. Peter was picked up at his place of work in August 1937. At first he was kept in a nearby prison in Melitopol, where his daughter Justina could visit him. She sometimes saw him from a distance, sweeping the prison yard. Then he was presumably sentenced into exile, and has not been heard from since.

In 1943 wife Katharina, daughter Justina Regehr and her nine-year-old son tried to escape with the retreating German Army. The child died on

the way. Katharina and Justina were among those overrun by the advancing Soviet Army and were repatriated to Siberia. There they had to settle, under difficult circumstances, in Aktyubinskaya Province. After a number of years daughter Susanna found them and came to live there as well. In time Susanna died of cancer. Katharina, of generally good health, died peacefully on 25 December 1963 at the age of 83.

Sources

Family Information

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Janzen, Rudy H, *By God's Grace Rev. H. H. Janzen Was Who He Was*

A historical account of the life of H H Janzen, first published in German by Erich Razlaff in *Die Mennonitische Rundschau*, then edited and produced by Rudy H Janzen

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol I pp 226-228

Mennonitische Rundschau, Obituary of Anna Epp, 13 August 1980, p 28

Mennonitische Rundschau, Obituary of Katherine (Tina) Janzen, 6 November 1991, pp 24, 25

Molotschna Historical Atlas pp 64, 158-159

There are minor differences of dates in some of the documents, for example the birthdays of Peter (2 March vs 2 October 1878) and wife Katharina (11 June vs 19 June 1880)

ABRAHAM ABRAHAM BAERG
(1890-1937?)

Abraham Abraham Baerg was born in Bijuk-Busau, Crimea, on 16 January 1890. His parents were Abraham Baerg and Maria Dueck; they had 11 children, of which Abraham was the third eldest. In May of 1897 father Abraham was ordained as minister of the Busau Mennonite Church. Abraham began his village school education in Bijuk-Busau, but presumably transferred when his parents moved to a nearby village Bijuk, Kaban. Having completed the village school he attended the *Zentralschule* in Ohrloff, Molotschna, for three years. He was baptized 7 June 1910, becoming a member of the Bijuk-Busau Mennonite Church.

After completion of *Zentralschule* Abraham attempted to increase his knowledge with further private study. He was not successful in passing the entrance exams of a school in Ekaterinoslav, possibly because he did not know Russian well enough, Abraham did, however, pass the teachers' examinations, thereby qualifying him to be a village schoolteacher.

With the beginning of World War I he was drafted into the Medical Corps (*Sanitaetsdienst*), first serving as an accountant on a hospital train, then as a financial officer in the Moscow head office. After the war he married Anna Dueck of Neukirch, Molotschna, daughter of the church song-leader (*Vorsaenger*). They eventually had six children, four girls and two boys. He taught village school in Borongar, Crimea. Then he gave up teaching completely and moved to Neukirch, the village where his parents-in-law still lived. He purchased a *Wirtschaft* on the main street, near the school.

Abraham was elected minister by the Neukirch Mennonite Church, as a result of which he was disenfranchised, losing all his rights as a citizen, particularly employment opportunities. Later he also lost his farm. In 1932 the Baergs lived in the Neukirch church warden's house. He tried to employ his two horses to eke out a living, using them as a team to help out in the neighbouring kolkhoz. Despite increasing difficulties, he reported in November 1932 that he continued preaching, sometimes twice a Sunday, morning and afternoon. Between 1 January 1933 and June 1933 he was fined 1,000 rubles, an amount he could not possibly pay. Letters of 1 September and 1 October 1933 amplify the situation - nothing to eat, no clothing, no shoes for the children. The children even lost all their rights to attend the local school.

By 15 January 1935 the Baerg family seems to have moved to Tokmak, possibly because they were expelled from Neukirch. They were living with a sister-in-law, using her name and address as contact point. By now they had only one horse.

Abraham was arrested in 1937 and sent into exile. The last trace of him was from Arkhangelsk, on the White Sea. Since then, nothing!

Two sons, two daughters and a son-in-law Janzen were deported in 1941. Wife Anna, the eldest daughter Maria Janzen with her 6-year-old daughter, and the youngest Baerg daughter, age 15, managed to escape to Germany. Brother Wilhelm eventually settled in Brazil.

Sources:

Family information and Busau Mennonite Church records
Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol I pp 304-308

KORNELIUS PETER BERGMANN
(1872-1937)

Kornelius Peter Bergmann was born 25 February 1872 in Ladekopp, Molotschna. He was the eldest of six children of Peter Jakob Bergmann and Elisabeth Toews. Peter was a typical village farmer, but in time also a minister of the MB Church. Kornelius began *Dorfschule* two years earlier than usual, probably at the age of five, apparently recognized as being unusually clever. He graduated from the Ohrloff *Zentralschule*, then completed the Halbstadt Teachers' College.

Kornelius taught school at the Neuhoof Estate in the Brodsky region, then later for a few years in the Molotschna village of Schoenau. He then attended the St Petersburg Teachers' Institute for three years. In St Petersburg he met Ida Staschau, a serious Christian and an accomplished pianist and organist. They were married 30 May 1899. Having heard about the idyllic Molotschna rural setting, Ida may have been somewhat disappointed with the harsh realities of village life. They probably could not have their own children, so in time they adopted a daughter, Leni.

Upon graduation from the institute in St Petersburg, Kornelius became teacher of German at the Halbstadt *Zentralschule* from 1899 to 1906, following teacher David Hermann Hamm. He also taught pedagogical courses. A former student and later colleague of his, A A Toews, wrote "I have never known anyone who was such an enthusiastic teacher, and his preparatory students, the future teachers, were also instilled with his enthusiasm." He was a special friend of nature, particularly birds. He did not like anything to be squashed or killed, either flowers or wildlife. During his leisure time Kornelius "roamed through the fields and meadows with his gun, in order to collect rare specimens for mounting and use in nature instruction." (One could admire him even more if he had roamed without his gun!).



Kornelius and Ida Bergmann with
adopted daughter Leni

Kornelius also published articles in various Mennonite periodicals, often under the pseudonym *Orosander*. He had a passion for his Mennonite people, but could also be sharply critical of the wrongs he saw. He wrote a text for would-be teachers and a treatise on animal rights. *Volksittlichkeit und Tierschutz* (Ethics and Animal Protection) was published in 1906. He also worked for the Molotschna Teachers' Society.

In 1906 Kornelius and Ida travelled to Germany, where he studied Philosophy at the University of Jena. After one year Kornelius suffered a "nervous breakdown" from which he never fully recovered, and which made public ministry impossible for at least 15 years. The couple came back to Ladekopp, where his wife and relatives took care of him. He appeared to be so severely disabled that he had to be carried around on a stretcher. He was a big man, and the stretcher so wide, that it could not be carried through the door. As a consequence they had to manipulate the stretcher



Birthday card sent by the Bergmanns to niece Mika Bergmann in 1924

through a window. Yet when he saw an interesting bird he could jump up and walk to the window to see it, with no apparent ill effects! His wife Ida played an important role in the care of Kornelius, making great sacrifices, apparently without a murmur, even though the patient was sometimes impatient.

With time there seemed to be slow gradual improvement in his "condition"; by 1916 he could walk six yard-widths down the village street. Mother Elisabeth Bergmann died of tuberculosis of the spine in 1907. When father Bergmann was unable to manage, the Kornelius Bergmanns with father Peter moved to Rueckenau, where another son Abram lived. Kornelius and Ida continued there until about 1930, when they moved to Melitopol, just south and west of the Molotschna Colony.

While never returning to the teaching profession, Kornelius did on occasion preach. He made it his mission to distribute tracts and New Testaments in 35 different languages. He also visited many people who had been imprisoned, often on trumped-up charges. This was dangerous, and he knew it.

In 1936 Kornelius was, not surprisingly, imprisoned in Melitopol for one year. His wife Ida wrote that during this time he was at peace, and encouraged and strengthened many others who were also in prison because of their faith.

Kornelius was then banished to Siberia in 1937. With poor food and terrible conditions, he died there on 17 December 1937.

Ida went back to St Petersburg, and moved into the very room where her husband had lived and studied forty years previously. Her subsequent fate is not known.

Sources:

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Letkemann Notes

Penner, Michael, *Of Russian Roots and Canadian Migration: The Illustrated Story of the Abram P Bergmann and Katharina Wiens Family and Ancestry*, Second Edition, New Westminster, BC, 2003, pp 48-63

Toews, Aron A, *Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol 1*, self-published, Winnipeg, Canada, 1949, pp 110-113

ISAAK PETER BULLER (1897-1938)

Isaak Peter Buller was born 14 November 1897 in Tiege, Sagradovka Colony. His father's name was Peter Peter Buller, who was born 1 March 1865 in the Slubitskoye district of Warsaw, Poland. His mother was Helene Regehr, born 4 September 1872 in Gnadenfeld, Molotschna. Isaak had one older brother Peter, born 29 April 1893 (wife Agnes Kroeker), and four younger sisters, Lena (husband Peter Pankratz), Greta (Jakob Penner), Maria (Leo Kolke) and Tina (Heinrich Reimer).

During World War I Isaak volunteered for the medical alternate service (*Sanitaetsdienst*) in September 1915. He was on hospital trains on the German front transporting the wounded from the war zone to Moscow. He served until the end of the war, then returned home to Tiege in 1918.

From 29 November to 1 December 1919 the Sagradovka Colony was attacked by hordes of Makhno bandits. Eight villages bore the brunt of the attack with a total of at least 199 dead; there was much rape and pillage as well. Muensterberg was the hardest hit, with 98 murdered, and most farmsteads burned to the ground. Father Peter Buller was brutally murdered by Makhno bandits in this raid. He was hacked to death 29 November 1919, one of the 17 victims who were killed that day in Tiege. Isaak himself was one of a number of people who were forced to lie down, and were



Isaak Buller in medical corps

slashed in the neck with sabres. He survived by playing dead, recovered, but had a residual scar. He was particularly helped in his recovery to health by the dedicated care of a young lady, Maria Friesen. Some people actually thought they would marry, but that was not to be.

Isaak's mother Helene died 8 June 1940, still living in Tiege, apparently of a heart attack.

For some time Isaak lived in Alexanderfeld (village No 1), where he worked as an accountant for a sunflower



Extended Buller family in 1930. Back row, second from l Isaak, then wife Helena, fifth is Peter; front row l to r Lena, Maria, mother Helene, Tina and Greta

processing mill. Apparently there were some financial discrepancies, so Isaak was released from his job. He then returned to Tiege, where he spent one summer working for his brother Peter as a watchman for the kolkhoz fruit garden. In his spare time he produced crates for the cheese factory which his brother was also managing. His next employment was as administrator for the hospital in Tiege, situated just across the street. In time Isaak worked as bookkeeper or accountant in the local kolkhoz. To obtain the accountant positions he must have had some form of education in the field.

Isaak married Helena Kroeker 18 December 1921. She was born 15 November 1900 in Gnadenfeld, Sagradovka Colony; her parents were Klaas Kroeker and Maria Friesen. The couple had five children: Maria (19 January 1923), Helene (28 September 1924), Klaus (6 September 1926), Arthur (12 February 1930) and Heinrich (12 February 1936). It is assumed that his family followed the move to Alexanderfeld, and then back to Tiege. Daughter Susanne was born about eight months after Isaak's arrest, on 8 August 1938. She has obviously never seen her father.



Isaak was arrested the night of 3 December 1937. There are at least two stories about the possible reason for the arrest. Wife Helena remembered that, without his noticing it, someone had drawn a swastika on his jacket, making him suspect of German sympathies.

The Isaak Buller family in 1935; l to r Helene, Helena, Klaus, Isaak, Arthur and Maria. Heinrich and of course Susanne were not yet born

This actually showed that someone was jealous and wanted to get rid of him. Another source has him being accused of treason, which is consistent with this story. The other version is that he was accused of stealing a little bottle of oil, not even a full bottle. He was taken to the prison in Kronau, where he apparently went to trial. They could not find evidence convincing enough to convict him. Then, after a month, all the rest of the inmates of the prison were shot, likely including Isaak. He has not been heard from since, the presumption being that he was executed early in 1938.

The family continued to live in Tiege. Daughter Maria taught *Dorfschule* in the village of Muehlhausen (Sagradovka). She also translated for the German Army during their occupation of the region. Daughter Helene studied in Kiev at the *Lehrer Bildungs Anstalt* (teachers' college).

When the German Army retreated from the Sagradovka area in October 1943, the family, joined the Great Trek to Poland. They were first in the Wartegau region, then moved to Malchov, Mecklenburg area. Klaus was drafted into the German Army, Arthur into the *Hitler Jugend*. Helene in the meantime rejoined the family, arriving from Kiev by train. Mother Helena, son Heinrich and her daughters escaped to Berlin on 5 August 1946. Plans were being formulated there to arrange a Berlin escape. Unfortunately Maria fell trying to board a streetcar and sustained a bad fracture of

her leg. For this she was hospitalized, and her sister Helene stayed with her when the other refugees escaped 30-31 January 1947. Being in poor general health Maria died in the hospital after an operation on her leg, on 8 February 1947.

Mother Helena, Klaus, Heinrich and Susanne participated in the "Berlin Escape" engineered by Peter Dyck and C F Klassen of the Mennonite Central Committee. Eventually the whole remaining family found its way to the Volendam Mennonite Colony in Paraguay, and in time everyone moved to Canada. They arrived in Toronto 28 January 1954. Most settled in the Winnipeg area. Mother Helena died 16 July 1996.

Sources:

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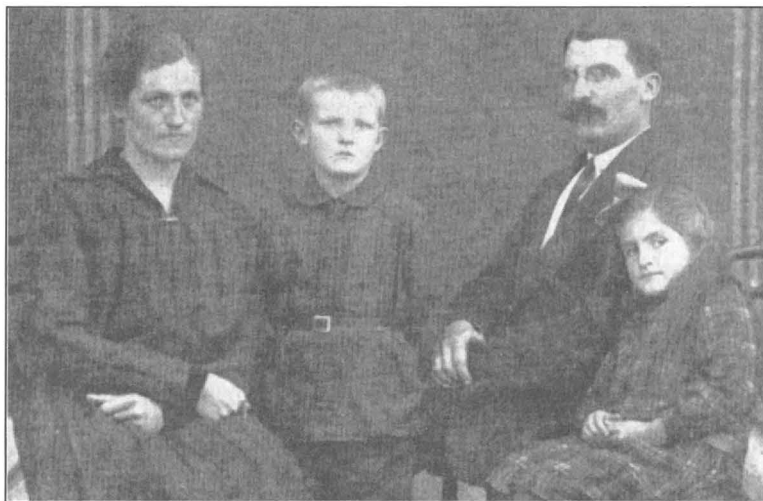
Lohrenz, Gerhard, *Zagradovka*, Echo Historical Series, English translation, CMBC Publications, 2000, pp 94, 109

Thiessen, Susanne, daughter of Isaak Buller, personal and family information

ARON ARON DUECK (about 1895-1937?)

Aron Aron Dueck was born about 1895 in Prangenau, Molotschna. He was the son of Aron Dueck, who owned a *Vollwirtschaft* on the main street of the village. He attended the *Dorfschule* in Prangenau, where P Peters would have been his teacher. After that he attended the Gnadenfeld *Zentralschule*, then graduated from the two-year teacher training program in Neu-Halbstadt. He accepted a position as teacher in a village school (not sure where), then after a few years accepted a similar position in the newly constructed school in Margenau. He continued to live in this village until he was banished in 1931.

In his youth Aron had been strongly influenced by atheist friends, but later he became a devoted follower of Christ. He married Judith Ida Regehr, daughter of Minister Peter P Regehr, and a devout Christian. She was born 15 November 1898. She was a member of the Mennonite Brethren Church, he of the Margenau Mennonite Church. The couple had two children, daughter Vera (born about 1920) and son Theodor (born about 1922). Aron was a very good teacher; he had excellent command of the Russian language, and was a lover of nature. He and the teacher of a neighbouring village, Aron A Toews, even arranged an excursion



Aron Aron Dueck Family: Ida, Theo, Aron and Vera

to Berdyansk for the more senior students during their holiday time. The students enjoyed seeing the sea, the large ships, and even swimming in the Sea of Azov.

Aron was elected minister by the Margenau Mennonite Church. He also participated in the wider concerns of the Mennonite world. He was at the General Mennonite Conference held in Moscow 13-18 January 1925, and was elected as a member of the *Kommission fuer Kirchenangelegenheiten* (KfK).

With the Communist takeover in Russia he had a choice to make. The government did not allow a minister to also be a teacher. Aron chose the difficult road, and continued to serve as minister. This meant that he lost his teaching position, and was disenfranchised. He had no rights and could not find employment. Added to these difficulties were the fines which were imposed, beginning in 1930. The Duecks had saved a bit of money in the better years, so at first they could at least stay in their home. They also had one cow, the milk providing nourishment. As the years progressed, however, with continually higher fines, the Communists took almost everything, leaving only a kitchen table and two wooden chairs. The parents-in-law gave them some additional furniture, so the Duecks could at least stay in the house, but with the cow gone they had no more milk.

The people of Margenau were very helpful, so the Duecks did not have to suffer unduly. In the springtime Aron tried to find work, but being disenfranchised made this difficult. Eventually he was able to find a labouring job at the *Weisse Erde Grube* (White Clay Pit) in Hierschau. He was not used to the hard physical work, but was still very happy to have found employment. He came home on weekends, walking the 10 verst distance. But late one Sunday night in 1931 he was awakened at home and taken away, so quickly that he was unable to say farewell to his children. Aron and 300 other men were taken away to a strongly guarded overcrowded shed in Halbstadt, reason unknown. Since no food was provided, wife Ida had to periodically travel the 20 verst to bring him something to eat.

After 5 weeks, Ida and the children were also apprehended one Saturday night, 23-24 June 1931. They were allowed to take along only what they could carry. On a rough wooden wagon (*Bretterwagen*) they were taken to the railway station Stulnyevo, near Waldheim. They were accompanied by heavily armed riders. The men from Halbstadt had already been brought there, so it was a mixed blessing. The family was reunited, but they were all being sent into exile. Everyone was packed into "Red Train Cars." Sandwiched tightly together they travelled for 8 days, but were allowed out on only two occasions. They went through the Ural Mountains, then were unceremoniously unloaded at 3 AM in a birch forest. They were then taken to long wooden barracks where they could recover from the long trip. Almost all of the passengers, including the four Duecks, were sick for some time, although they eventually recovered. Overall health was not helped by the poor and meagre food rations. In time conditions improved, especially when the potato crop arrived. They ate potatoes three meals a day, supplementing the small portions of bread and the watery soup. Aron was able to find work in an office. They lived in a town called Kir-Savod, 10 verst from the city of Tschelyabinsk.

In a letter written 28 January 1932, Ida reported that authorities had allowed children under 14 to return to their homes in South Russia. Ida's brother Peter Regehr came to accompany Vera and Theo, and took back another 10 Mennonite children with him. Vera and Theo stayed with their grandparents Regehr. At that time it was still possible to receive mail and packages, so the parents were able to communicate with their children and both were able to send and receive packages. The Duecks did receive a package from abroad, but even so, Ida was becoming weaker. They were living in an earth hut which they shared with another family, the Isaak Sawatzkys. Ida died in the autumn of 1932. In time Aron was free to leave his place of exile. He visited Margenau in the summer of 1934, at which time he married Justel Heidebrecht. He then returned to his exile home with his wife and the two children. Aron by then was able to be a teacher; Theo was a driver (*kutcher*), and Vera also became a teacher.

Aron was again arrested in 1937, even at his place of exile, and sent further into the North. This time he went alone, and was never heard from again.

Wife Justel and the children stayed at the original place of exile, but were not heard from after 1939. Ida's parents died in Margenau, father Peter P Regehr in 1933, and his wife in 1935.

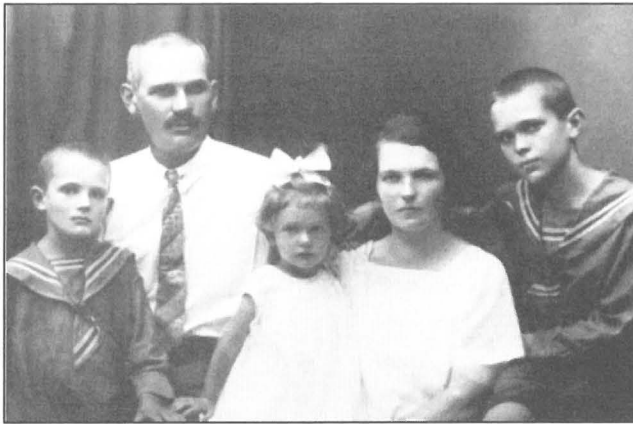
Sources

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PETER JOHANN DYCK
(1884-1937)

Peter Johann Dyck was born 3 June 1884 in Osterwick, Chortitza Colony. He was the eighth of nine children of Johann Dyck and Anna Niehuhr, both born in Kronsthal, Chortitza Colony. His father was a farmer, but also a carpenter and wagon builder. His mother was the daughter of Abraham Niebuhr. Presumably Peter completed his elementary schooling, as well as his secondary school. He was likely baptized by Elder Isaak Dyck, and was a member of the Osterwick Mennonite Church.

Peter's father sent him to Germany to study at a technical institute in Zwickau, Saxony. He completed several years of study about 1910, then worked another year in Germany to get experience. He returned to the Ukraine about 1911, starting to work at the A J Koop Factory in Schoenwiese, Chortitza Colony, as a mechanical engineer.



Peter and Elsbeth with children in 1931, l to r:
Walter, Hildegard, Peter

Peter had met Elsbeth (Else) Agnes Wilhelm while he was in Germany. He then returned to Germany in 1912, where they were married on 17 October in Werdau, Saxony. She was born 12 September 1889 in Werdau, into a Lutheran family. The couple had five children: Herbert (1913), Margaretha (1915), Peter (1918), Walter (1924) and Hildegard (1926). Margaretha died as a small child. They first lived in Schoenwiese for several years, then moved to Einlage.

In 1917 Peter joined the Union of Metal Workers. After the Russian Revolution and the eventual Bolshevik takeover, the Hildebrand, Lepp & Wallmann and A J Koop factories of Schoenwiese were nationalized and combined to form one huge conglomerate, which in time was called Factory Communar. Peter continued to work for the factory as the chief engineer, although he never joined the Communist Party.

Peter was a tall man, almost seven feet. He was a good engineer, but also got along well with his co-workers. When help was needed by some of the junior partners, he was willing to give it. He and his friend Gerhard Hamm worked very hard, often spending many hours in the factory well beyond closing time. In his position of responsibility Peter was allowed to build a fine house in Einlage, as well as being able to have a few holidays in southern resorts.

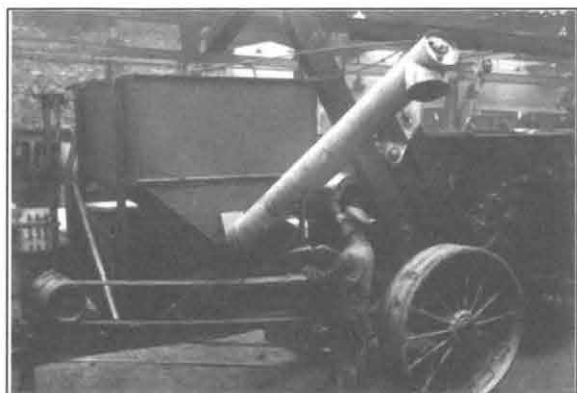
Peter and family went to Germany in 1926, partly to visit, but also to assess some American agricultural technology.



The Peter Dyck house in Einlage

They left eldest son Herbert in Germany to study. Later Herbert was unable to return to Russia; he disappeared in the last days of World War II.

In 1929, together with Gerhard Hamm (Design Engineer), Kornelius Pauls and others, Peter



First harvest combine built in the Soviet Union in 1929, designed by Peter Dyck and his crew at Factory Communar

and his team developed the first harvester combine produced in the Soviet Union. The combine was presented at the Sixteenth Communist Party Congress held in Kursk in 1930. The developments were reported from the podium; Stalin himself applauded.

After examination by Michael I Kalinin, and by decree of the Central Executive of the USSR, the factory and the most deserving workers were awarded the Order of Lenin for their achievement. Those receiving the award included Peter Dyck, Gerhard Hamm and Kornelius Pauls. The presentation was on 3 September 1931. The award was for "exceptional achievements in the development of grain combines and the organization

of the mass production." So the achievement was not only the design of the combine, but also to equip a factory which could mass produce the machine. Peter drew up the plans for the combine and also wrote up the handbook to go with it. He continued to work on additions and modifications to the combine to improve its efficiency, for example "shields and beaters," which were added in 1932, to improve the winter crop yield.

In the summer of 1933 a report reached Vyacheslav M Molotov that the factory was producing defective combine harvester parts. The only possible cause was of course sabotage. Both Molotov and Stalin agreed that since their system was perfect and their ideology scientifically correct, all industrial mistakes must be the result of sabotage by "wreckers." Molotov ordered that Procurator-General Akulov arrest all the guilty. But to Stalin's chagrin, the industrial workers were passionately defended. While there were political repercussions among the party magnates, the factory was allowed to continue working. At least for the time being.

In 1934 Peter continued to monitor the efficiency of the factory; photographic records of the average working day showed that time was wasted in various factory functions. Peter worked to correct these. October 1934 Peter reported that by 11 October the factory delivered 18,507 units, on some days production reaching up to 60 combines. They seemed to be on schedule for delivering 20,000 for that year!

Anna Alexandra Mladova was a Russian trained engineer, and the first woman to join the engineering team at the Factory Communar, in 1934. She remembered working with both Peter



Peter Dyck in 1936

Dyck and Gerhard Hamm, and found them to be very kind and helpful.

But there was some agitation at the factory. There were staged meetings every month or two, "Praising our glorious intelligence service, our organs of the NKVD, and their leader Comrade Yezhov." The unknown bandits should be punished – "death by firing squad." While some expressed the opinion that one should mention the positive developments, there were obviously those who suspected, or were hoping, that there were sabotaging spies.

On 8 April 1937, eleven of the leading people of the factory accused of being "enemies of the people," were arrested and jailed in Zaporozhye. Upon being confronted, they were first asked to surrender their Order of Lenin medals; then they were ordinary citizens. Peter was specifically accused of "unreasonably spreading contra-views for an adverse and harmful organization." Wife Elsbeth and daughter Hildegard saw him in prison in Zaporozhye on one occasion, and after that he was no longer there.

Presumably someone in the group broke down after prolonged torture, and confessed to the sabotage. This then cleared the way for further action. The prisoners were sentenced on 16 September and executed on 17 September 1937 in Dnepropetrovsk.

On 11 September 1937 Elsbeth was also arrested and sentenced to five years of exile. After half a year of enduring "unspeakable circumstances" in prison, she was sent to the concentration camp Akmolinsk, in Kazakstan. Children Walter and Hildegard were taken to an orphanage for children whose parents had been arrested. With onset of World War II, Elsbeth's period of exile was lengthened to ten years. After 11 years, severely crippled by rheumatoid arthritis, her son Walter took her to his home, where she died 3 February 1962.

As of 6 March 1958 Peter was officially declared rehabilitated.

Gerhard Hamm and Kornelius Pauls, also of the factory team, suffered similar fates.

The fact that 11 of the members of the team were arrested makes it seem that this may have been part of a larger scheme, possibly final revenge by Stalin for the 1933 episode. That is the kind of reaction Stalin often showed. It could also have been instigated by lower rank engineers or other workers at the factory who were jealous of the acclaim their colleagues had received.

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written by Hildegard Epp and Walter Dyck, children of Peter Dyck

Epp, Hildegard (nee Dyck) family information

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HEINRICH JOHANN FROESE (1909-1937)



Heinrich Johann Froese

Heinrich Johann Froese was born 16 January 1909. His parents were Johann Froese and Anne Bergen. They lived in Schoeneberg, Chortitza Colony; they had 11 children, of whom four died in infancy. Heinrich was the eighth child; the children were:

1. Johann - 1896? - died in infancy
2. Jakob - 31 December 1898; had wife Elisabeth and 5-6 children; also arrested 29 October 1937; executed
3. Maria - ? - died in infancy
4. Johann - 1902 - married, at least one daughter Anni; also arrested 29 October 1937; executed
5. Anna - 1903 - married Abraham Rempel from Hochfeld, Yasykovo; involved in MB church; moved to Caucasus, then back to Schoeneberg; Abraham also arrested 29 October 1937; executed; family to Paraguay
6. Tina (Katharina) - 1905 - died in infancy
7. Susanna - 1907 - died in infancy

8. Heinrich - 16 January 1909 -
9. Peter - 1911 - died 1921
10. Isaak - 14 December 1912 - name changed to Peter in time of German occupation; died 15 January 1985
11. Gerhard - 10 October 1914 - died 16 February 2003

Heinrich's father Johann was shot in Schoeneberg, possibly in 1918, by Machno bandits. A Johann Froese is listed as the only casualty for Schoeneberg in that year. His mother married again, to a Mr Krahn. Heinrich married Maria Enns 18 October 1931. Her parents were Heinrich and Maria Enns of Schoeneberg; she was born 15 April 1910. Heinrich worked as a bookkeeper at the local kolkhoz.

Heinrich was arrested after about one year of marriage, some time in 1932, because of his non-resistant stance, and was exiled to a coal mine in Siberia. He almost starved to death. Food parcels sent by Maria actually reached him. Heinrich came back from exile, likely in 1934. Son Heinrich was born 8 July 1935.

Heinrich, his two brothers Johann and Jakob, as well as brothers-in-law Abraham Rempel and Abram Ens (relative on the wife's side of the family) were among the 17 men



Heinrich Froese and Maria Enns
married 18 October 1931

arrested in Schoeneberg the night of 29 October 1937. Heinrich, brothers Johann and Jakob, as well as brother-in-law Abram Rempel were executed 25 November 1937 in Zaporozhye. The fate of Abram Ens is uncertain, although it is likely that he too was executed. They were all later declared rehabilitated. They had been convicted on insufficient evidence. Of course, this did not bring them back to life!

Wife Maria and son Heinrich eventually travelled to Germany by train to avoid the advancing Soviet Army. From a United Nations sponsored refugee camp near Munich they travelled to Bremerhaven to



Son Heinrich and Maria Froese about 1943

join the "Berlin Escape" refugees on the ship "*Volendam*." It set sail for Buenos Aires, Argentina on 1 February 1947. They settled in the Neuland Colony, Paraguay, as pioneers. In 1950 they migrated to Canada, where they settled in Winnipeg. Here Maria and Heinrich became members of the South-End/Portage Avenue Church. Maria died 22 May 1979.

Sources:

Froese Family history, largely from son. Henry Froese
Letskemann Notes; many pages

JOHANN JOHANN GIESBRECHT (1908-1940s)

Johann Johann Giesbrecht was born in Halbstadt, Molotschna on 31 September 1908. He was the eldest of seven children of Johann Giesbrecht and Anna Goossen. His younger siblings were Anna (1912), Louise (1914), Viktor (1921), Heinrich (Andre) (1923), Elfrieda (1926) and Harry (1928). Father Johann had studied at the University of Odessa to obtain his accounting degree. He was then the manager of the credit union in Halbstadt. About 1920 the family moved to Lichtenau, also in the Molotschna. Using Lichtenau as his base, father Johann was the representative of a Dutch export company, so he had to travel all over Russia. Son Johann completed *Dorfschule* and *Zentralschule* in Halbstadt, after which he obtained an accounting degree, also at the University of Odessa.

Johann married Maria Doerksen of Wernersdorf, Molotschna in 1926. The couple continued to live in Wernersdorf, where their son Waldemar was born in 1929; he unfortunately had some disability.

In 1931, on the way home from a trip regarding his export business, father Johann was arrested in Zaporozhye, was jailed and



Young Johann with his
mother Anna



Johann and Maria Giesbrecht
with son Waldemar

exiled for five years. Several months later the Giesbrecht family was expelled from their home in Lichtenau, being told to leave the following day. They fled to the nearest big city, Melitopol, on foot. They took with them only what they could carry, and one cow. At first they settled in the outskirts in a small Mennonite community called *Krasnaya Gorka* (Red Hill), for several months. Then two Jewish families helped them to purchase a house in the city itself. Son Johann, his wife Maria and their son Waldemar joined the rest of the Giesbrecht family in Melitopol in 1933. Daughter Anna worked as an executive in a co-operative office; Louise was a clerk in a shop.

The whole Giesbrecht clan then moved to Kamenka, on the south bank of the Dniepr River, later in 1933. In 1934 they moved across the Dniepr to Nikopol, crossing the river by barge. They lived at 65 Kalashnikova Street, near the former J J Siemens flour mill. There they lived in two rooms, the whole family sleeping in one room. Father Johann completed his sentence in 1936, and rejoined the family in Nikopol. There he worked as a bookkeeper for a small restaurant. Because of his suffering during imprisonment he was in poor health and could do only light work.

Son Johann worked as an accountant in a grain elevator station in Nikopol. He was arrested in September of 1937. A "Black Maria" appeared on the street, and two NKVD policemen

knocked at the door a little after midnight. They searched the place for one to one and a half hours, then took son Johann away. He himself assured the family that he would be back in a few days since he was totally innocent. Wife Maria was visiting her parents in Wernersdorf at the time; she of course came home immediately. She was able to visit Johann in jail a week or two later. They had tortured him, and he looked all beaten up. Johann was accused of sabotage, of wanting to blow up the elevator terminal in which he was working. Whether or not he signed a confession under torture is not known. He was presumably exiled. Brother Andre in the 1960s enquired as to what had happened to him. He was told that Johann had died of "heart failure" in the 1940s. This most commonly meant that he had starved to death in exile.

Father Johann, mother Anna and some of the children went on the Great Trek in 1943, eventually reaching Poland and Germany. In time the parents and most of the children reached Canada. Maria and Waldemar travelled with the Giesbrecht family on the Great Trek, but stayed in Germany. Maria died in 1 April 1997, Waldemar had died about two years before that, both in Germany. Brother Heinrich (Andre) was drafted into the Red Army in 1941, was in time imprisoned, then released in 1954, and could finally reach Germany in 1984. Brother Harry owns a construction company in Winnipeg, Canada, and has done much to help his own previous home, Lichtenau, for example providing a school bus. He is active in the work of the Mennonite Centre in Molochansk (Halbstadt), which is located in the old *Maedchenschule* building.

Father Johann died 28 February 1962 in Winnipeg. Mother Anna died 9 April 1975, also in Winnipeg.

Sources:

Giesbrecht Family information from Harry Giesbrecht, Winnipeg, Canada, brother Huebert, H T, *Mennonites in the Cities of Imperial Russia, Vol 2*, Springfield Publishers, Winnipeg, Canada, 2008, pp 299, 300

GERHARD CHRISTIAN HAMM

(1883-1937)

Gerhard Christian Hamm was born 22 April 1883 in Chortitza, Chortitza Colony. His parents were Christian Hamm and Maria M Hamm. Maria was Christian's second cousin and a descendant of Johann Cornies. They were married on 15 October 1872. Presumably Gerhard completed his elementary and secondary schooling in Chortitza.

In 1899, at the age of 16, Gerhard began working at a factory in Halbstadt, Molotschna, but then he studied at a technical institute in Germany from 1905 to 1907. Returning from Germany he worked as an engineer in Halbstadt, then in Berdyansk. In 1909 he started to work in the A J Koop Factory in Schoenwiese, Chortitza, as a design engineer.

Gerhard married Katharina Rempel, probably in 1914 or 1915. The couple had two children: Christian Gerhard (1916) and Katharina (1918). Wife Katharina and daughter Katharina died in a typhus epidemic in 1920. Gerhard then married Anna Koop on 9 July 1923. She was born 14 August 1892, also in Chortitza, and was the daughter of Peter A Koop, who was part of the Koop family that owned the A J Koop Factory. He had also been the *Schultz* of Chortitza. Gerhard and Anna had one daughter, Marguerita in 1926. She later married Wilhelm Bergmann.

Gerhard continued to work at the factory, even when it was taken over by the Bolsheviks. It was then combined with the Hildebrand and Lepp & Wallmann factories to form



Gerhard Christian Hamm



Watch given to Gerhard Hamm to commemorate the fifth year of the Revolution

a large conglomerate, and soon after was renamed Factory Communar. Gerhard played an active role in the district committee of the Union of Metal Workers. In 1923 he was awarded a gold watch for outstanding performance, commemorating the fifth year of the Revolution. Gerhard was a baptized member of the Mennonite Church, and attended services with his family in Zaporozhye into the early 1930s. He was never a member of the Communist Party.

Gerhard was part of the team at the Factory Communar, which included Chief Engineer Peter Dyck, Kornelius Pauls and others, that designed and produced the first harvester combine in the Soviet Union in 1929. In 1930 he was sent to Germany and the United States to gather information and experience regarding the conveyer system which would be an improvement in the combine design. Both he and Peter Dyck were known to be hard workers, often working in the factory well beyond closing time.

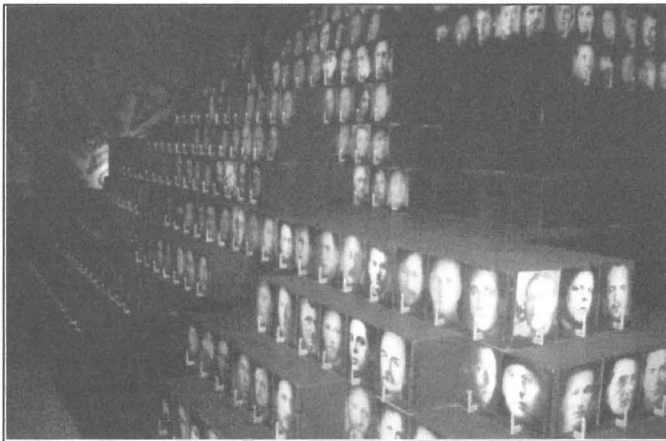
On 3 September 1931, after examination by Michael I Kalinin, member of the Politburo, the factory and the design team, including Peter Dyck and Gerhard Hamm and others, received the Order of Lenin.

Anna Alexandra Mladova was a Russian-trained engineer, and the first woman to join the engineering team at the Factory Communar in 1934. She remembered working with both Peter Dyck and Gerhard Hamm, and found them to be very kind and helpful.

On 8 April 1937, eleven of the leading people of the factory were accused of being “enemies of the people,” were arrested and jailed in Zaporozhye. Specific accusation against Gerhard was that he took part in a “counter-revolutionary diversion organization.” When the arresting officials came, they first asked Gerhard to hand over the Order of Lenin medal; then he was an ordinary citizen. For some time Anna was able to assist Gerhard every week, to bring him food and clean underwear. Likely someone finally broke down under extreme torture and confessed that there were indeed spies



The Gerhard Hamm File, Room 9, Dmitri Yavornitski Historical Museum, Dnepropetrovsk



The Pyramid of Death, Room 9, Dmitri Yavornitski Historical Museum, Dnepropetrovsk

who were sabotaging the factory. Gerhard was sentenced on 16 September, and executed 17 September 1937 in Dnepropetrovsk.

Gerhard’s wife Anna was also arrested and sentenced to five years exile in Siberia. She had to stay in the area another ten years because she was German. In 1956 she was rehabilitated, then in 1962 could join her daughter in Canada, where she died 15 July 1978 in Winnipeg.

On 6 May 1958 Gerhard was also declared rehabilitated. There had not been sufficient evidence to convict him.

Gerhard’s picture is now displayed in the Pyramid of Death, pictures of the people who have suffered atrocities at the hands of the Soviets under Stalin, found in the Dmitri Yavornitzki Historical Museum in Dnepropetrovsk.

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HEINRICH JOHANN HUEBERT

(1883-1940)

Heinrich Johann Huebert was born on 6 March 1883 in Blumstein, Molotschna. His parents were Johann Nikolai Huebert and Katharina Toews. Initially the Hueberts lived with his parents in Muensterberg, then after five years they moved to Blumstein. In Blumstein Johann bought a small property which also had a treadmill. He remained a miller, which he had been in Muensterberg, but also farmed some land. In 1894 Johann sold his properties in Blumstein and purchased the family homestead in Muensterberg, including a windmill and a treadmill. In time he no longer operated the treadmill, bought a granary across the street, and built a large flour mill. Johann also entered a business partnership selling harvesting equipment. Many of the sons of the family were involved in these enterprises.



Heinrich Johann Huebert

Heinrich was the eighth child of the family, the fifth born in Blumstein. He was a sickly child up to the age of six, having his share of childhood accidents, such as falling into a deep hole underneath the flour mill. He attended *Dorfschule*, beginning in Blumstein, then completing it in Muensterberg; he graduated from the Ohrloff *Zentralschule*. From 1904 to 1908 he served in the *Forstei* at the Alt-Berdyansk Station. Upon discharge he was fully employed in the family milling operation. During the time after the Russian Revolution and while Makhno controlled the region, Heinrich had to go into hiding. On one occasion a group of what was likely bandits took a neighbour, Abram Wiebe, hostage. Money was demanded. Heinrich canvassed the village, but when he came back with the cash, a lady let out a scream, and the bandits fled with the wagon on which Wiebe was held. As they rode off, Wiebe fell from the wagon, and so was saved.



Elisabeth and Heinrich Huebert
on their wedding day in 1922

Heinrich married Elisabeth F Janzen August of 1922. The couple had two children, both born in Muensterberg: Heinrich, born 4 May 1923, and Johann, born 5 March 1926.

Under increasingly difficult circumstances, Heinrich tried to keep the mill going for his father, but all efforts failed. Heinrich was first arrested and jailed in Melitopol in 1930. From jail he wrote his sister in Canada that his Bible had been confiscated, but he "knew that his Redeemer liveth." Heinrich was a member of the Lichtenau Mennonite Church. From Melitopol Heinrich was exiled to Kotlas in northern Russia, for three years of hard labour. He was released in October 1933, but found it difficult to travel because he had no money and no proper clothing; relatives helped him. Relatives and friends also helped his wife and two sons to move to the Caucasus.

Heinrich eventually was able to join his family in the Caucasus. He was first employed by the kolkhoz as a cowherd, then as a gardener. He had to plant five hectares of forest and three hectares of vineyards. The family made earthen bricks, and built themselves a small house. Both Heinrich and Elisabeth were not well; she apparently had cancer. Heinrich broke his foot in 1937, so he was not able to earn a living.

On 5 August 1937 Heinrich was again arrested and sent into exile. His brothers Abram, Jakob and Johann were arrested that same day.

Heinrich is said to have died 18 May 1940, presumably in exile

Elisabeth, sons Heinrich and Johann, step-mother Katharina Huebert and sister Justina moved to the Memrik Colony after Heinrich was exiled. In 1941 they were evacuated to Kazakhstan.

Sources:

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NIKOLAI HEINRICH HUEBERT
(1905-1937?)

Nikolai Heinrich Huebert was born 5 September 1905 on the estate Steintal, Ekaterinoslav. His parents were Heinrich Jakob Huebert and Maria Wiens. The couple had 12 children born between 1888 and 1911, of whom Nikolai was the ninth. They moved to Tchongrav, Crimea, in 1909. Nikolai went to the local *Dorfschule*, then to Karassan for *Zentralschule*, but did not complete this school because he was homesick. He worked as a mechanic, being good at fixing things.

Nikolai married Elisabeth Luise Koop of Dschangara, Crimea in 1928. She was born 5 April 1909. The couple had four children: Maria (1 April 1929), Louise (5 May 1930), Nikolai (31 March 1932) and Agnes (23 April 1937). They lived in Tchongrav.

With the Communist takeover Nikolai continued to do what he did best, being a jack-of-all-trades, fixing equipment such as tractors. Specifically he was assigned to the pumping station of the collective farm.

Seventeen men from Tchongrav were notified that they had to appear in court in Simferopol, the neighbouring large city; they left early on the morning of 30 January 1937. They arrived in Simferopol later in the day, and were promptly imprisoned.

Elisabeth was pregnant at the time when Nikolai was arrested; a daughter, Agnes, was born 23 April 1937, three months after his imprisonment. Elisabeth, together with Maria and the newly arrived Agnes, went to visit Nikolai on at least two occasions. They first walked 20 kilometres to the rail station at Bijuk-Onlar, where they stayed overnight, sleeping on straw, then went on by train the rest of the way to Simferopol the following day. On one occasion Elisabeth was asked to sign an innocent looking paper. She read the contents, found no incriminating evidence, and signed.

When Nikolai's case came to court he was accused of trying to poison the whole village, through the pumping station. The authorities had found half a bottle of poison in the household. The fact was that there were many flies in the family barn, and it was common to set out little dishes, with a touch of fly poison in the water. Nikolai, the court was told, was going to poison the whole village with this weak fly poison! They had also added accusations to the paper that Elisabeth had signed, so that it was claimed that she had confirmed in writing that her husband was guilty. Nikolai was sentenced to seven years in prison, and was sent east to Vladivostok, then further north to Okhotsk.

Elisabeth wrote Nikolai a letter in 1938, telling him that his mother had died. The letter came back a year later, unopened, with a note stating that he had died. Elisabeth applied to Simferopol for more information, and after a year was informed that Nikolai was alive and working, but that his sentence had been extended from seven to ten years. That is the last the family ever heard about Nikolai. The suspicion is that he likely died soon after reaching Okhotsk, sometime in 1937 or 1938.

All of the seventeen men who went to Simferopol that fateful 30 January 1937 were imprisoned and tried. With the peculiar twists of sadistic cruelty of the Stalin era, most were sentenced to long terms in exile on the usual trumped up charges, but a few were actually declared innocent by the court and returned home after some months.

Sources:

Klassen (nee Huebert), Mary, daughter of Nikolai Huebert, personal interview and family records

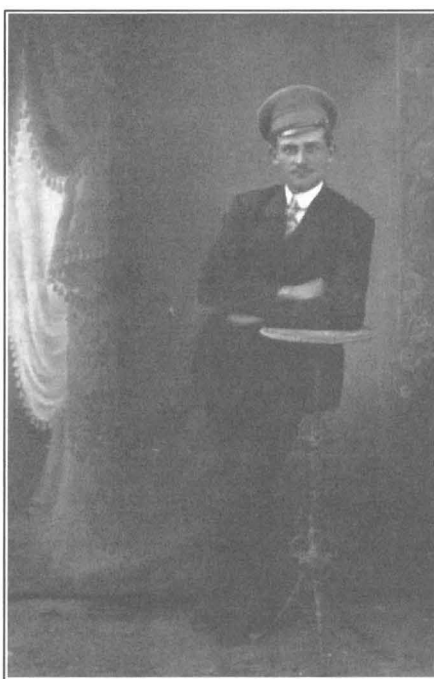
PETER DAVID HUEBERT

(1898-1942)

Peter David Huebert was born 16 November 1898 in Margenau, Molotschna. His parents were David David Huebert and Helena Wolf. David Huebert had six children from previous marriages; Helena Wolf, previously married to Kornelius Johann Martens, had five. Together the couple then had another eight children, of whom Peter was the fourth. Minister Gerhard David Huebert of Winnipeg was a younger brother, Elder Kornelius Kornelius Martens of Gnadenfeld a step-brother. Peter's mother died 16 January 1913, his father 14 October 1917.



Peter Huebert at the funeral of his mother in 1913
He is the tall boy, first on the left, back row

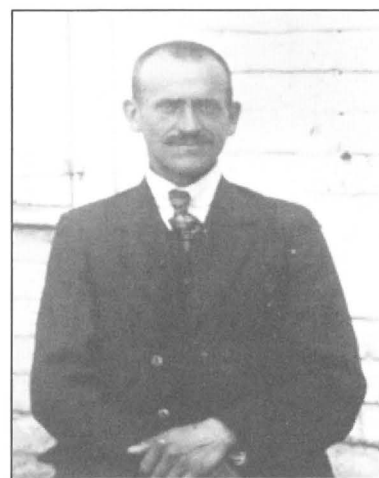


Peter Huebert as a young man

Huebert, who lived in Alexandertal, Molotschna.

Peter then studied bookkeeping with his step-brother Kornelius Martens in Gnadenfeld, after which he was appointed

Hermann Rempel of Gnadenfeld was Peter's elementary school teacher; after that Peter attended the Gnadenfeld *Zentralschule*. In 1917 he was drafted into the *Forstei*, serving at the Neu-Berdyansk Station. He was discharged from the *Forstei* in 1918, and found work in his home village of Margenau. During the Civil War he was drafted again, this time by the White Army; he served with a Cossack regiment. As the Red Army overcame the White forces in the area, the Whites backed further and further west, until they reached Poland, where they were disarmed. They were imprisoned in the Fortress Premyschlj. On the long trek Peter had contracted typhus, had frozen his feet, and was starving. Help for the prisoners in Poland finally arrived from America. Peter returned to Russia in November 1920, and, following the army of General Wrangel, was finally able to reach home. He stayed with his brother Heinrich



Peter Huebert about 1923



Peter Huebert (on the left) with a friend

court official in Tokmak. In the four months at this job he saw many terrible things, and was starting to waver in his faith. Peter then returned to Alexandertal, where he was converted in 1922. He was baptized by Minister Johann A Toews, then was accepted into the Mennonite Brethren Church. He helped in the food distribution of the American and Dutch Mennonite relief efforts during the famine of 1922-1923, particularly in the village of Alexandertal. At the request of the church he began to preach the gospel. Minister J B Toews and Minister Gerhard D Huebert both preached their first sermons as youths from the same pulpit, probably at roughly the same time.

Still in 1922 Peter married Liese (Elisabeth) Voth of Alexandertal. She was born 12 August 1901. The couple had three daughters: Martha (15 November 1924), Anna (17 February 1929) and Lenchen (Helena). In 1923 Peter started helping people make arrangements to emigrate to Canada. He himself had to remain behind because there was trachoma in the family. Trachoma is an infectious eye disease, which, at the time, Canada did not allow into the country.

Peter continued to serve the church, especially with the youth, until he was arrested and exiled in 1937. The family has had subsequent information that he died 24 July 1942 at his place of exile.

Liese and the three daughters were evacuated to Kazakhstan likely in 1941 with the onset of the German invasion. Liese died on 1 August 1972 after a long difficult struggle with cancer. Her funeral service began with prayer, then followed 13 hymns, a poem recitation and four sermons. At the grave side there were another four songs and two sermons. Closing remarks were based on the Gospel of John 5: 28-29 and Psalm 17:5.

The daughters are married and live in Kazakhstan. Martha married Heinrich Ladner and lives in Kustanaj, Anna married Viktor Held and Helena married Jakob Wall, both living in Frunze.

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Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol II p 109

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Mennonitische Rundschau, Obituary of Anna D Huebert, 6 February 1985, pp 24, 25

JOHANN MARTIN JANZEN

(1885- ?)

Johann Martin Janzen was born 10 March 1885 in the Mennonite village of Ebental (later called Nikolayevka) of the Memrik Colony. His father was Martin Janzen. Johann's childhood and youth were spent in his home village, where he also attended elementary school. From there he progressed to the Ohrloff *Zentralschule*, where his instructors would have been Kornelius Unruh, Johann Braeul and Johann H Janzen. This was followed by two years of teacher training in Halbstadt. Professors were N Dyogtyarow, D J Dueck Wilhelm P Neufeld and Kornelius Bergmann. In the autumn of 1905 his first assignment was as teacher on one of the estates of Heinrich Jakob Sudermann, Station Grischino, Ekaterinoslav.

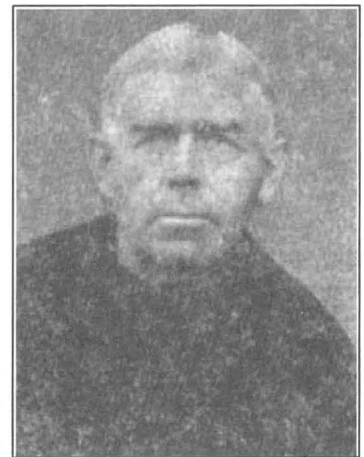
After teaching on the estate for two years he married a Martens girl (*Schwester* Martens) from Orlovo, Memrik. In time they had at least 2 daughters and one son. The children on occasion provided beautiful music for visitors to the home, accompanying the singing with harp and guitar.



Johann Martin Janzen
in his younger years

Johann accepted a teaching position at Herzenberg, Kharkov Province, where he had the opportunity to contribute to the Mennonite Brethren Church. He was conductor of the church choir, and also preached on occasion. After two years he moved to Barvenkovo, Karkhov, where he served as teacher and also worked in the church. Together with A H Unruh he helped lead the youth group. In the summertime he took mathematics courses in Karkhov under the direction of teacher Festa, to prepare himself for the official teacher examinations. At the start of World War I Johann was drafted into the *Sanitaetsdienst* (Medical Orderly).

After conclusion of the war Johann returned to Herzenberg, again serving as teacher and minister. After a time his conscience would no longer allow him to be a teacher, he just could not participate in teaching the atheist Communist dogma that was required. He returned to his home colony Memrik, where he helped in the function and development of the Mennonite Brethren Church during this critical time; the house of worship was in the village of Kotlyarevka. He was very fluent in Russian, and had a most engaging way of dealing with the authorities, so he accomplished much more than others could have. Johann possessed a buoyant nature and was liked by all. He was elected to the ministry by his home church, and was ordained by Elder Jakob Doerksen. After the retirement of Elder Doerksen in 1926, Johann was asked to accept the eldership of the church. He ministered to people well beyond the borders of Memrik, travelling as far as the Kuban on his mission trips. It was thought that he was able to serve the church longer than usual during those troubled times because he had so little property. There was very little that the authorities could take from him. But eventually even



Johann Martin Janzen
during his exile

Johann's time did come.

There is a record of Johann having been arrested in January 1934, but the final episode in his history seems to have occurred some years later

Johann returned from a mission trip in the autumn of 1937. Having just served at a funeral in Nordheim, Memrik, he was called in for interrogation by the authorities. Johann was sentenced to 10 years of exile in Siberia.

On one occasion his wife was actually able to visit him at his place of exile, and brought back a picture of him. Nothing is known of him since that time.

Sources

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol I pp 282-284

ABRAHAM ABRAHAM KONRAD
(1898-1943)

Abraham Abraham Konrad was born 6 June 1898 in Alexanderkrone, Molotschna. His parents were Abraham J Konrad and Katharina Braun. About 1900 his mother died; an older sister later commented that “the Lord supplied a second mother” so his father must have married again. Abraham spent his childhood and youth in Alexanderkrone. After completing the *Dorfschule* he graduated from the *Handelsschule*, both in Alexanderkrone.

In 1914, when Abraham was 16, the family moved to the north Caucasus region, the village of Kalantarovka, where his father bought some land. In 1918, at the age of 20, he was baptized upon confession of faith, and joined the Mennonite Brethren Church. His elder sister, Katharina, was also baptized and joined the church in the same year. Abraham actively participated in the church programs (*Mitarbeiter*).

In October of 1918 his father was shot in his own home by bandits in a robbery attempt. In 1922 Abraham married Eva Epp, daughter of Johann Epp of Suvorovka. She was born 14 March 1902. The couple had eight children between 24 September 1923 and 22 November 1937. In 1925 they moved to a farm in Fuerstental, Suvorovka. There he was elected to the ministry in 1927, then was also chosen as church elder.

In 1929, when people were desperately trying to obtain exit visas for Canada, Abraham also went to Moscow. At first he went alone, but then came back to get his family. When he arrived at his home train station he was arrested by the secret police and taken to the jail at Pyatigorsk. Here he suffered for a number of months, until he was finally sentenced to three years of exile. He was sent to an island in the White Sea of northern Russia, near Murmansk. This was quite probably the well known concentration camp, Solovetsky. He was given very little food, and had only thin clothes. Working in the forest, he lost his toes through frostbite.



Eva and Abraham Konrad

Two years into the sentence he was allowed to complete his time further south, near the city of Saratov, working on a collective farm. He was even able to bring his family to himself. Finally, upon completing his sentence in 1933, the family could move to an even better climate. They were accepted onto a kolkhoz in the village of Neu-Hoffnung of the Konosavod Settlement in the North Caucasus region. But even here, despite working hard, they did not get enough food. There was not sufficient of what they desired the most – bread. Abraham had difficulty with his work assignment, running a combine.

In 1934 things were improving. The authorities let them build an earth hut, over a metre into the ground. If they had not been helped they would have succumbed. Abraham and Eva said “We are exhausted and tired of life.” By then they had four children, three boys and one girl.

In May of 1935 the Konrads reported that there was no shortage of work. They had bread, but had to supplement the diet with corn. They were worried about the children. There was no

religious training whatsoever, no church services, no singing of hymns. They were steadily bombarded by "Worldly and Godless" propaganda. They reported that Eva's parents, the Johann Epps, as well as brother David, wife, and child, had again been exiled.

One day in 1937 the police came onto their yard and arrested Abraham. After he said a tearful farewell to his wife and children, two policemen pushed him onto a truck which stood on the street, and he was taken into exile. He is reported to have died 27 December 1943, in exile.

Wife Eva and children were evacuated to Kazakhstan in 1941.

Sources:

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol II pp 146-148

Mennonitische Rundschau, 1 April 1987, p 29, Obituary of Abraham's sister Katharina Janzen

She died 26 February 1987 in St Catharines, Ontario

JOHANN JOHANN LOEWEN (1871-1937)

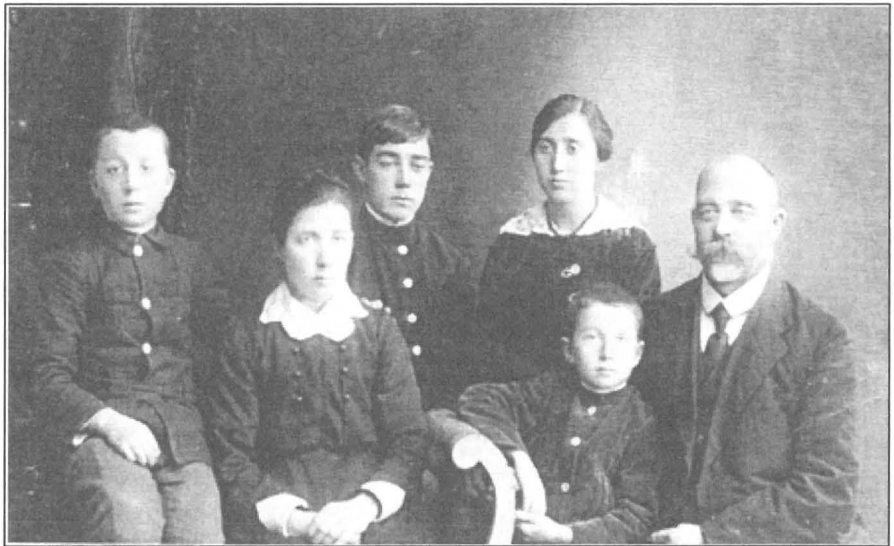


Johann and Helene Loewen

Johann Johann Loewen was born in the Yasykovo Colony in 1871, but when he was 15 years of age his family moved to Friedensfeld, Ekaterinoslav Province. Johann was converted at revival meetings held by Minister Christian Schmidt of the Kuban; he then was baptized and joined the Mennonite Brethren Church. From a young age his gift of composing poetry became evident. Later on his poems were collected and published. He was also interested in music. He participated in a conductors' workshop held by Bernhard Dueck in Friedensfeld 28-31 December 1894. He wrote enthusiastic reports about the sessions, which were published in *Zionsbote*. He encouraged others to participate in similar events.

At the age of 21 Johann was drafted into the *Forstei*, serving four years at the Anadol Station. Here he became the friend of Heinrich Unruh, who later was a missionary in India. He wrote a number of poems about his experience at Anadol, complaining about the unchristian behavior of many of his fellow-Mennonites.

Upon completion of his *Forstei* service Johann returned to Friedensfeld and married the neighbour's daughter, Helene Friesen, in 1897. She was born 3 April 1873 and was niece of the well-known historian P M Friesen. They leased a farm in Blumenfeld of the Nepluyevka Colony. The couple had six children: Anna, Johann, Heinrich (1906), and Nikolai (1910); two others died in early childhood.



Helene and Johann Loewen, with children Heinrich, Johann
Anna and Nikolai about 1915

The Nepluyevka congregation was founded in 1880, as an affiliate of Friedensfeld. They met alternately in the schools of Blumenfeld and Steinau until a building was constructed in Steinau in 1905. Here Johann founded a choir in the Mennonite Brethren Church, remaining its conductor for 20 years. He was also a Sunday School teacher and worked with the youth. He published a 300-page book of poetry in 1899 titled "*Herzenstoene fuer schilchte Christen-Hezen*" (Heart-felt thoughts

for a humble Christian).”

Johann collaborated with Bernhard Dueck in writing hymns. He supplied the lyrics, Dueck composed the music for *Mennolied*, written to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of Anabaptism in 1925. He wrote:

*Wenn man in unsern Tagen die Freiheit ketten will,
dann schaun wir fest entschlossen aufs neue Wanderziel.*
(If in our day they want to chain our freedom
Then we resolutely look ahead to a new goal.)

Johann also collaborated with Dueck to write a Low German song. *Sing am levlich, sing am scheen*. Both worked together in conductors' courses to raise the level of singing and music in the Mennonite colonies.

After World War I and the subsequent Revolution, the neighbouring Russian population took over the Loewen farm. They were also attacked by bandits and anarchists, Johann almost losing his life in one of these attacks. Since they had no further means of sustenance, the family was forced to move back to their home village of Friedensfeld. After a period of unrest even in Friedensfeld, things seemed to settle down. During this time Johann resumed his work as Sunday School teacher and choir conductor; he was even elected as Regional Choir Conductor. He travelled to the various churches, conducting choir practices for singers and directors, also organizing songfests (as late as 1930). Johann was in his element!

But soon things changed. The church building was taken from the congregation, and even home worship services were forbidden.

When migration to Canada became an option, Johann helped a number of people obtain the appropriate passes, but when it came to his own family, it was too late. They were not even granted passes to travel to Moscow in 1929 when Mennonites tried to obtain exit visas. With collectivization in the area, Johann was appointed gardener on the collective farm; he planted orchards and vineyards. Many of the farmers in the village had been displaced as kulaks; Johann was one of the few men remaining. The director of the collective, a Party-man, did not like Johann, and actually had him taken to prison in Nikopol on three occasions in the early 1930s. Each time the court declared him innocent, and set him free. They recognized his value to the collective; he had planted a vineyard, from which they made thousands of rubles profit. After his second stint in prison, probably after torture, he told his wife, Helene “Now I understand the expression ‘Oh hell, oh hell, now I know you’” But his enemy would not rest.

One night in June 1937 the police were at the door, and in half an hour Johann was gone, never to return. His son Nikolai went to the prison to bring Johann food and clothing, but was not allowed to see him. A week later he was allowed entry, and found the prisoner to be pale and nervous. He had been tortured and forced to sign a confession that he had tried to destroy vineyards and orchards on the collective farm. In six weeks, son Nikolai had himself been arrested and jailed. During this time Johann did manage to write a note to his wife; he pasted it into a piece of bread, which, together with some of his other belongings, was sent to her. Johann wrote “My dear Lena, my faithful life's companion: why did such a hard blow as never before have to strike us? I have accepted my lot and have just one request to you, my dearest, and of you children...accept everything as coming from God's hand and comfort yourself with the thought that we shall see each other again in heaven where I am going in steadfast faith.”

Several weeks later Anna, the wife of Nikolai, visited the prison, but found that her husband Nikolai, father-in-law Johann and her brother-in-law were no longer there. They had been transferred, Johann to Zaporozhye, where he was shot by the NKVD on 27 October 1937. Son Nikolai was sent to Dnepropetrovsk, where he was also shot by the NKVD on 29 October 1937.

Sources:

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NIKOLAI JOHANN LOEWEN (1910-1937)

Nikolai Johann Loewen was born 16 January 1910 in Blumenfeld, Nepluyevka Colony, Ekaterinoslav Province. His parents were Johann Johann Loewen and Helene Friesen, who were originally from Friedensfeld. Johann was a well-known choral conductor and poet. Nikolai was the fourth surviving child of six children in the family, older siblings being Anna, Johann and Heinrich.

Nikolai probably came to admire Anna Wiebe at choral festivals or other festive gatherings. He was a poor boy from a relatively small village. Anna was born 13 November 1910, and was the daughter of rich land owners with an estate near Kudashevka. She had been baptized at the age of 17 on 28 June 1927 by Abram Wall of Miloradovka. She did not particularly admire Nikolai's "Roman" nose nor his freckles and reddish hair. Despite initially being treated rudely Nikolai persisted, and



Nikolai Loewen as a young man

eventually won Anna's

hand. Nikolai and Anna were married in Friedensfeld on 1 December 1929. They moved in with Nikolai's parents in Friedensfeld, hoping that the arrangement might be temporary.

The couple decided to emigrate to Canada, boarding a train for Moscow, where they hoped to obtain visas. Halfway there they were turned back. It was no longer possible. This attempt may have come back to haunt them in the future.

Nikolai and Anna had three children: Harry (8 December 1930), Johann (Hans) (21 January 1933) and Helena (Leni) (2 February 1937). They lived in the middle of Friedensfeld. Nikolai worked as an assistant to a veterinarian. He went to Nikopol and Kharkov to further his veterinary medical education, but because of poverty and difficult circumstances was not able to complete his studies. During the time of his studies the family stayed in Friedensfeld. Upon return he functioned as a veterinarian in Friedensfeld and the surrounding area, drawing a modest salary to support his growing family. Nikolai and Anna



Nikolai Loewen with friends:
he is back row centre

made good music together, he playing the violin, she singing – German hymns and Russian folk songs. They seem to have had a good relationship with each other and the children, although because of the setting, teaching in the home was limited. Harry was raised as a Soviet citizen of German background. It was only later, when they were safely out of the Soviet Union, that he

discovered that he was a Mennonite.

There were ominous clouds on the horizon. His father Johann was imprisoned. Nikolai heard rumours that his wife Anna was on the list for arrest. He came home crying one day because of this fear; the word was that Anna was too independent and somewhat of a rebel among the villagers. Nikolai wished that he would be arrested rather than Anna.

Late one night in mid-September in 1937 the family was rudely awakened by loud knocking. Anna whispered to Nikolai, "Now they have come to get you." They got up, dressed and lit a lamp. Nikolai went to open the door. Two NKVD officers in plain clothes came in and searched the their house for letters and other documents; one of the men was a Mennonite collaborator from their own village. They told Nikolai to get ready to go with them.

Anna cried, pleading that her husband, father of three young children, should not be taken. One of the officers sneered, "Don't cry so much, your husband will soon be back." Anna, courage aroused, snapped, "Don't give me that! You know he will never come back. I will never see him again!"

Nikolai was led away between the two NKVD officers. Anna, still crying, rushed after him with his overshoes. "*Kolya*," she wept, "You've forgotten your galoshes!" (*Kolya* is the Russian abbreviation of Nikolai). Nikolai turned, went back to his wife and embraced her one last time. He went to the bed of his oldest son, the six-year-old Harry, put a hand on his head and said "Harry, I might not see you again. Be good to mother and help her as much as you can." Then he went with his captors. The motor of the "Black Raven" started, and they were off.

Anna visited Nikolai and his father Johann in the prison in Nikopol for the next few weeks. She brought them food, and hoped to hear news about what might happen to them. Nikolai was tortured and forced to sign papers documenting trumped up charges. He was accused of being a "traitor and enemy of his country." As veterinarian he had undermined the Soviet economy by poisoning over a hundred cattle in Friedensfeld and other nearby collective farms. He spied for foreign countries, received money from abroad and encouraged his wife to stir up trouble among the women of the collective. After three or four weeks both Nikolai and his father Johann were moved from Nikopol, Johann to Zaporozhye, where he was shot by the NKVD on 27 October 1937, and Nikolai to Dnepropetrovsk, where he was shot by the NKVD on 29 October 1937.

Altogether 28 men were arrested in Friedensfeld in 1937, another ten in 1938. This represented almost all of the able bodied men of the village.

Wife Anna Loewen and the three children eventually reached Germany, then Canada. Anna Loewen died 4 March 1988 in Clearbrook, British Columbia. Harry was professor of Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg and editor of the *Journal of Mennonite Studies*. He has now retired to Kelowna, British Columbia. He has written, and continues to write books on Mennonite



The Loewen family in Germany in 1947
l to r: Harry, Johann, Helena and mother
Anna

history and faith. John was a manager for Sears in a number of Canadian cities, and has now also retired to Kelowna. Helena married a physician, Art Dick. They lived in Manitoba for some time, then Kelowna. Art has served for brief medical stints to help alleviate suffering in Third World countries. They have now also retired and live in Peachland, near Kelowna.

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KORNELIUS KORNELIUS MARTENS (1880-1938)

Kornelius Kornelius Martens was born 15 November 1880 in Wernersdorf, Molotschna. He was the first of five children of Kornelius Martens and Helena Wolf. Soon after his birth the couple moved to Spat in the Crimea. Early settlement years were hard, the family sometimes having only thin watery soup to eat.



Kornelius Martens

In August of 1887 father Kornelius died as a result of an accident, leaving Helena as a widow with five children. That same year Kornelius started school. He was a good student, being blessed with an excellent memory. He also had a sense of responsibility and was proud to help his mother, being the oldest “man” in the house.

David Huebert, a widower living in Margenau, Molotschna, proposed marriage to Helena by mail. This was refused, but the quest was more successful when David personally appeared in Spat. The couple was married on 18 October 1892 in Rueckenau. The family moved to a *Kleinwirtschaft* in Margenau. To the six children of David Huebert, the five children of Helena, another eight were added through this marriage.

Kornelius was first a student at the village school in Margenau, then with his family skimping and saving, he continued his education at the Gnadenfeld *Zentralschule*. With the help of a scholarship he completed the two year teacher training school in Halbstadt. He first taught school in Siberia, then Samara and Alexanderpol. In Alexanderpol the young teacher met Sara Friesen, daughter in one of the households where he boarded. Despite his obvious poverty, they were married on 3 July 1904. The couple had eight children: Kornelius (1905), Sara (1906), Helena (1908), Tusedla (1911), Alexander (1915), Heinrich (1919), Elfriede (1923) and Anneliese (1925).



Sara and Kornelius

In 1906 the Martens family moved to Nikolayevka (No. 5) of the Ignatyev Colony, where Kornelius again taught school. He helped establish a *Zentralschule* which opened its doors in the autumn of 1907 with 23 students. Kornelius was one of the teachers, instructing Religion, German and Russian. In 1911 Kornelius developed a throat condition which for a time forced him to give up teaching. The Martens family then moved to St Petersburg in 1912, where Kornelius worked as bookkeeper for a branch office of the publishing house *Raduga*. He attended night school at the university, completing courses in economics as well as European languages. He seemed to have a special facility for languages, to varying degrees mastering German, Russian, French, English, Latin, Ukrainian and of course Low German. After two years of studies in St Petersburg, Kornelius was appointed inspector of schools for the Gnadenfeld Volost, and Rector of the Gnadenfeld *Handelsschule* (business college).



Kornelius Kornelius Martens

At the age of 19, after completing the teacher training, Kornelius became a Christian, and that summer joined the Rueckenau Mennonite Brethren Church. At the age of 26 he was elected minister. When he was appointed at Gnadenfeld he joined the Sparrau Mennonite Brethren Church, where in time he was elected elder. During this time the family lived in Gnadenfeld, so it often meant a lot of travel, in later years sometimes on foot.

In the Martens household it was said "He taught us to pray and to work." When spending was required on the farm, things had to be thought through carefully, but for books there was always money! Even illness did not dampen Kornelius' enthusiasm for knowledge. He contracted typhus, and could lie on only one side because of bedsores. He spent the time conjugating French verbs to take his mind off the pain.

After the abdication of the Czar and during the time of the Kerensky provisional government, Kornelius was elected head of the Gnadenfeld Volost, a position he occupied for about one and a half years. On one occasion in the unsettled times that followed, the *Handelsschule* was surrounded by armed men. Martens and another teacher, Rempel, were apprehended for helping a female colleague. Both were to be shot in the schoolyard, when a cleaning lady asked for mercy for the teachers. Finally, for a pair of warm winter underwear and after a stern admonition to mind their own business, the two men were released.

Later, when the *Selbstschutz* protective force collapsed, the Red Army stormed into Gnadenfeld on 11 March 1919. Kornelius Martens and another man stepped forward to face the angry commander, General Dobenko. He pleaded with the general "Mr. Dobenko, forgive us!" Finally Dobenko agreed to allow plunder, but not killing, except for those who had participated in the *Selbstschutz*.

Eventually the Soviet government took control of the area. Kornelius was released from his position as rector of the school and was required to pay a substantial fine within 48 hours. On 6 January 1922 the family moved from Gnadenfeld to Grossweide, still in the Molotschna, where Kornelius started to farm, although he still continued his church activities. He was appointed the official land surveyor for the village of Grossweide.

Because Kornelius understood economics and the laws of the land he was often asked for help and advice. His well known peace position enabled him to represent Mennonite youths when they appeared at court hearings to establish their non-resistant status. On one occasion the judge said he would accept the status for a youth if Kornelius could explain the Trinity. Kornelius replied that he would be quite happy to do this if the judge would explain why one of the trees on the yard had grown into three parts. The judge gave the youth his non-resistant status.

Kornelius participated in various inter-Mennonite activities. He was at the General



Kornelius and Sara

Conference of Mennonite Churches in Russia held in Moscow in 13-18 January 1925, and was elected secretary. During this time he was also elected secretary-treasurer of the KfK [*Kommission fuer Kirchenangelegenheiten*]. When a new publication, *Unser Blatt*, was initiated, again at this conference, Kornelius was chosen secretary-treasurer. He also contributed articles and poetry to this paper. Kornelius was actually quite a poet. Possibly his best known work is "*Die Alte Weide*," (The Old Willow). Most of the poems deal with suffering and separation.

During these years the family often considered emigration. Difficulty in paying for the passage as well as the poor medical condition of Sara made them reluctant to resettle. Kornelius reasoned "It is the Lord's way, he still needs me here." On 7 July 1929 Kornelius and Sara Martens celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. Their seven surviving children [one died at an early age], almost the entire Sparrau congregation, the whole village of Grossweide and many friends participated. Reminiscing about the past 25 years Kornelius could say "Praise be to God for everything. I have kept faith with the good principles of our Mennonite heritage, faith in our just cause, and in God's promises." Alexander Ediger, Chairman of the KfK, and elder of the Schoensee Mennonite Church congregation, was one of the guest speakers.

Kornelius was often taken to the police station in Melitopol during this time, to account for his various church and related activities. The authorities sometimes detained him for up to two weeks; on at least one occasion his travel was restricted to the borders of his own village of Grossweide. In 1930 the collectivization of the Molotschna began, but since Kornelius was a minister he was not allowed to participate in the collective farm. Gradually his land was taken from him, until he had only 16 dessiatines (43.2 acres), yet he was forbidden to sell the farm. Soon an ever increasing tax was demanded, and when the family tried to have an auction to raise the money, the authorities cancelled it. One Sunday morning, while Kornelius was preaching, a car could be heard entering the village. This was usually bad news. When the Martens reached their home after the service they were informed that they had to leave the region within 24 hours. Sara and the youngest children were immediately taken to stay with relatives, Kornelius and the older four left by wagon the next day. For a time the family was scattered among relatives or lived in Russian villages.



Kornelius reading *Pravda*

In the spring of 1931 Kornelius obtained a position as teacher of Latin and German at a medical institute in Stalino (later Donetsk). When he found accommodations for his family they gradually all moved to Stalino as well. Circumstances were difficult, but they survived.

After steadily declining health, then more serious illness for five months, Sara died on 28 February 1934, of heart failure. Despite trying hard, Kornelius concluded that it was difficult to run a household without a mother. Anna Klassen, originally from Dnepropetrovsk, had in the past impressed Kornelius, having contributed some articles to *Unser Blatt*. She was asked to come and visit the family, with marriage in mind. The responsibility was too great, she thought, so she left having given a negative answer. Soon after, with a change of heart, she wrote back to Kornelius and accepted his proposal. They were married in August, 1934. Both Kornelius and Anna worked in the medical institute, the economic situation of the family improving with this added income.

In Stalino Kornelius could not ignore his commitment to God, and so continued to work as

minister. He led Bible studies, and also preached on occasion. In the spring of 1937 he was once again asked to report to the police headquarters. With a premonition of impending trouble he said "Soon my turn will come, and my only crime is that I have faithfully served my Lord and Saviour."

On the night of 6 August 1937, the police searched their rooms, and confiscated some of his papers. Kornelius was jailed in Stalino, in a cell so small that only one of the three prisoners could sleep at a time. Once a month a package of food or clothes could be sent to him or money designated for his use. Anna was able to see and speak to him on only one occasion. By then he was very thin.

When parcels sent to Kornelius were returned, the family assumed that after one year of imprisonment in Stalino, he had been transferred. On persistent questioning Anna was informed that he was sentenced to ten years exile, no exchange of letters allowed. Some time after World War II son Heinrich received the information that Kornelius had died of pneumonia two years after his arrival in prison. No specific location or date of death was given. Subsequent information is that he was actually shot, likely in the Stalino jail, on 15 January 1938, about six months after his arrest.

After the imprisonment of Kornelius, Anna Martens and the younger children were asked to leave their accommodations. Anna lost her job, though several months later she again found a teaching position. During World War II the family was widely separated. Anna, together with Helena and Anneliese were sent to Siberia. Anna died there 3 January 1979. Son Kornelius and his family, daughter Sara, Tusnelda, Heinrich and Elfriede came west as far as Germany. Kornelius and his family as well as Heinrich were repatriated back to the Soviet Union. Sara, with children Helena and Viktor, and Elfriede eventually reached Canada while Tusnelda stayed in West Germany.



Helena, Sara, Viktor and Elfriede in Vienna

Sources:

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Janz, Heinrich, "Prediger Kornelius Martens," *Mennoblatt*, 16 November 1991, p 7

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News Report, *Mennonitische Rundschau*, 18 September 1929, p 12

Personal Interviews: Gerhard D Huebert (half-brother of Kornelius Martens), Anna Huebert (half-sister), and Tusnelda Volkmann and Elfriede Martens, daughters of Kornelius Martens

Toews, John B, *Czars, Soviets & Mennonites*, Faith and Life Press, Newton, USA, 1982, p 90

Volkmann, Tusnelda, "Lebenslauf meines Vaters Kornelius Kornelius Martens," in *Mennonitische Maertyrer* edited by Aron A Toews, 1949, pp 207-213

DAVID PETER NEUFELD
(1883-1937?)

David Peter Neufeld was born 1883 in Rosenort, Molotschna. He was the son of Minister Peter Neufeld of the Ohrloff Mennonite Church. David spent his childhood and early youth completing the local *Dorfschule*, then, beginning in 1897, he attended the Ohrloff *Zentralschule*. He was a gifted and hard-working student. David then completed the two-year pedagogical course in Halbstadt. Likely in 1902 he obtained a teaching position in Wiesenfeld, Ekaterinoslav Province, where he stayed until 1907. He then moved to the two-room Friedensruhe school in the Molotschna, where his teaching partner was A A Toews (editor of *Mennonitische Maertyrer* Vol I and II). They were both single and lived in the school; meals were at the home of Klaas Reimer, a neighbour of the school.

In August 1908 David married Eva Reimer of Wiesenfeld, daughter of Cornelius Reimer. He continued to teach at Friedensruh until 1918. He then moved with his family to Lustigstal in the Crimea, where he stayed for several years. From there David returned to the Molotschna, first at Rudnerweide. Here they accepted Eva's mother, Widow Cornelius Reimer, into their home. He then taught at a number of different schools, Fabrikerwiese and Schoensee.

Shortly before his completion of 25 years of teaching (likely 1927) the school authorities felt that they needed to examine him. Questions were to be answered in written form. Basically they asked, "Do you believe in God?" If yes, he was out of a job, with no pension. Since David did not deny his belief in God, he was out of a job. The family was in dire financial straits.

Finally David did find a teaching position elsewhere, at Station Islam Terek in the Crimea. But this was not enough. In November 1937, teacher David Peter Neufeld was arrested and sent away into exile. He has not been heard from since. Presumably he died in exile.

The fate of David's family is also not known.

Source:

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol II pp128-129

GERHARD WILHELM NEUFELD (1905-1943)

Gerhard Wilhelm Neufeld was born 16 September 1905 in Liebenau, Molotschna. His parents were Wilhelm Peter Neufeld and Helena Peter Fast, who lived on *Wirtschaft* No 22. Children in the family were Katharina, Jakob (1899) and Gerhard (1905). In 1908 a Wilhelm Neufeld owned a brick factory in Liebenau; this could well have been Gerhard's father. Mother Helena died in 1914, so Jakob and Gerhard were cared for by Maria and Jakob Peters. Maria was the sister of Wilhelm Neufeld. Gerhard attended the *Dorfschule* in Liebenau, but likely went no further in his education. He was later considered to be "uneducated."

Gerhard suffered a serious injury of his thigh at school. It was very painful. After a time there was a purulent discharge (puss). Eventually the thigh healed, but Gerhard was left with a 10 cm shortening of that leg. Presumably Gerhard had an fractured femur which became infected. The body defenses eventually cured the infection, but since the femur was not treated properly it healed with considerable shortening. This disability will have affected his outlook and activities for the rest of his life, although he seems to have adapted to it quite successfully. He loved doves; he had a large dove cote. Gerhard also loved horses, although that did not stop him from learning how to work with a tractor.

Gerhard married Maria Jakob Neufeld on 26 October 1926. She was born 10 October 1903. The couple lived in Liebenau on *Wirtschaft* No 22, together with brother Jakob Neufeld and his family. Gerhard and Maria had two children:

1. Wilhelm - born 16 September 1927 in Liebenau; died of blood poisoning in 1932
2. Gerhard - born 29 June 1935 in Kirsavod; now lives in Ufa (2009)



Gerhard Wilhelm Neufeld in
prison in Sverdlovsk in 1934

The Neufeld property was confiscated in 1929; they were declared kulaks in 1931. Gerhard and his family were sent to Tscheljabinsk in the Ural region, where they lived close to, then in, the newly developed town of Kirsavod. Gerhard was arrested in 1933, according to Article 162 of the Russian code, and sentenced to two years in prison, which he served in the city of Sverdlovsk.

Upon release, Gerhard worked as a driver for the main farmer in the local "Kolkhoz Weg Ilich." He was also a good shoe repair man, often doing his work gratis. To help with his own limp, he made special shoes for himself, likely with a considerable raise under his affected leg. They lived in House Number 3, on Frunze Street 8, Kirsavod. Maria worked in a sewing factory.

Gerhard was arrested 5 November 1937 in Kirsavod. He was charged with "systemic counter-revolutionary agitation among workers against Soviet power." This usually meant that the person had not praised Stalin vigorously enough! Witnesses in his case were Razin Andrey Grigorevitch and Kornelzin Andrey Grigorevitch. He was tried by a Troika consisting of Secretary Podobedov, Sergeant Tabardenov, and likely the regional NKVD chief. He was sentenced according

to Article 58-10 of the RSFSR (Russian Soviet Union), to 10 years exile. For a year or so the family prepared food packages to send to Gerhard. According to records he died 13 May 1943 in a labour concentration camp near the city of Solikamsk, Perm region.

November 1941 all families in the region of German heritage were evacuated; the Neufelds and 12 other families settled in Pokosnyj near the Minjar River. They lived in three rooms, together with a number of other relatives. In order to survive the family traded in all of Gerhard's clothing and a "Singer" sewing machine for two sacks of potatoes and a small goat. Son Gerhard eventually was able to attend the village school, then completed a technical school in 1956. He married Tamara Simonov in 1956. They had three daughters, Natasha, Irina and Larissa. Gerhard finished his studies and worked as an electrical engineer. In 1967 they moved to Ufa, near the Ural Mountains, where they still live (2009). Gerhard retired 31 August 2002.

Mother Maria developed a malignant lymphatic cancer and died 4 December 1977.

Sources:

Neufeld Family History from son Gerhard Neufeld, of Ufa, Russia



Last postcard sent by Gerhard from prison in Solikamsk in 1942

WILHELM PETER NEUFELD
(1873-1937)



Wilhelm Peter Neufeld

Wilhelm Peter Neufeld was born 11 September 1873 in Liebenau, Molotschna. His parents were Peter Peter Neufeld and Katharina Heinrich Goossen, who lived on *Wirtschaft* No 18 in Liebenau. Wilhelm completed *Zentralschule* and two years of teacher training in Halbstadt, Molotschna. He then accepted a position as teacher of mathematics in the village of Blumenort, Molotschna, where he stayed 1893 to 1899. Wilhelm married Helena Peter Fast of Blumenort on 10 October 1896; the couple had nine children, six sons and three daughters. The first two sons were born in Blumenort. Wilhelm then inherited his father's estate in Liebenau in 1900, and moved



Helena Peter Fast

there. The other seven children were born in Liebenau. The children were:

1. Peter - born 21 June 1897, arrested 1934, released in 1947, died in 1975
2. Jacob - born 16 May 1898, arrested 1938, died in exile
3. Wilhelm - born 16 September 1900, arrested 1937, died in exile 27 May 1944 in the Akmolinsk region
4. Johann - born 5 January 1902, arrested 22 October 1937, shot in Dnepropetrovsk on 23 November 1937, family to Canada
5. Gerhard - born 16 September 1905, arrested and imprisoned 1937, died 13 May 1943 in concentration camp near Solikamsk, Perm region
6. Abram - born 23 March 1907, arrested September 1937 and exiled, released 1947, died 2 June 1948;
Wife Maria Willms (Woellms?) (1911), arrested June 1941 because her parents were German citizens
7. Helena - born 1912, arrested June 1941, sentenced to ten years' labour camp in Vorkuta, survived, lived in Germany
8. Katharina - born 1913, married Jakob Becker, lived in Schoensee
Jakob Becker was arrested 25 October 1937 in Schoensee, Molotschna
9. Maria - her husband was also arrested in 1937;
Katharina and Maria were twins

In 1910 Wilhelm was elected as minister of the Schoensee Mennonite Church, although he felt unworthy of this position. He did, however, using his education, fulfill various roles in the church, accepting a number of positions. He was, for example, a longstanding member of Church Council. Wilhelm was an accomplished singer, and for many years was the church choir conductor and the *Vorsaenger* (song leader) of his congregation.

In 1914 wife Helena died. Wilhelm gave up teaching to manage the family farm.

In 1930 Wilhelm was declared a kulak and was forced to abandon his home. For some years he stayed in the Memrik Colony, where conditions were not quite as severely controlled. In 1934 he returned to Liebenau, but had to remain hidden.

Wilhelm was arrested on 18 August 1937, and was, for some time, kept in a jail in Waldheim, Molotschna. He was mistreated and tortured, being accused of "actively producing propaganda in favour of fascist Germany." He was tried by the usual Troika, formed by the NKVD of the Dnepropetrovsk region and found guilty. He was sentenced to be executed, and was shot in Melitopol 14 September 1937.

All six of Wilhelm's sons were arrested and exiled, three of them in 1937. Two sons-in-law were also arrested and exiled in 1937.

Sources:

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol II pp 142-143

Letkemann Notes

Neufeld Family Records, Gerhard Neufeld, Ufa, Russia

PETER KORNELIUS PETERS

(1886-1938)

Peter Kornelius Peters was born 23 June 1886 in Paulsheim, Molotschna. His father died when he was quite young, and his mother does not seem to have remarried. Peter was converted at an early age and was a steady support for his widowed mother. He served in the *Forstei*, first in Oryol, then in Kostroma, where he prepared logs for sawmills. Later he was involved in road construction in the Crimea. He was released from the service in 1917.

Peter married Katharina Dirks on 19 January 1921. Presiding at the ceremony was teacher and Minister Julius Thiessen; his text was Galatians 6:2. Katharina was born 7 February 1889 in Paulsheim; her parents were Gerhard Dirks and Margareta Unruh. The couple had five children, of whom three girls died at an early age; the two survivors were boys. The Peters continued to live in Paulsheim. In May 1922 they joined the Lichtfelde Alliance Church. During the famine of 1921-1923 they were very happy and thankful to receive a food package from America. The disabled Widow Peters, Peter's mother, stayed with them during this time.

In April 1928 a "commission" came to the area and imposed huge fines on the farmers, much more than they could possibly afford. The fact that part of their crop had been ruined by a storm was not taken into consideration. Since the demanded sum could not be given, Peter and two other farmers were arrested and imprisoned in Halbstadt. There they sat for three days. The families eventually were able to borrow money and ransom them. But they were on the blacklist. The Peters went to Moscow in 1929 in a futile attempt to emigrate.

On 1 March 1931 the house was surrounded during the night. The police searched the whole house, took everything the family owned, and told them that they had to leave their home. Still that night a wagon pulled onto the yard, the family was ordered to board, and so they headed into a cold snowstorm. They travelled here and there, and finally were allowed to stay in a summer kitchen in Nikolaidorf. So there they were, parents with sons aged 14 and four, lying on the straw, crying bitter tears. After two days they had to move again; sympathetic Hans Boldt took them to Franztal. A number of relatives, Gerhard Koop, and father-in-law Gerhard Dirks had been expelled from their homes on the same night, and now also arrived in Franztal. Peter and Gerhard walked to the neighbouring Russian village of Nelgovka to help with the crops. In payment they received some rye to make bread.

On 23 August 1933 Katharina and her sister Lena (Gerhard Koop's wife) came back from the fields where they had been gleaning potatoes, only to discover that their husbands had been arrested and taken to prison in Gnadenfeld. After a few days the men received their sentences, six years of exile. They were, of course, disenfranchised. Peter was transferred to Halbstadt, then to Melitopol. Here he developed a high fever, apparently from blood poisoning (infection spreading through the body), but of course received no treatment. His wife was able to visit him in the horribly overcrowded prison. By then Gerhard Koop had been sent to his place of exile in northern Russia.

Peter gradually recovered. But this was a mixed blessing. When his condition was good enough he was transported to Murmansk, where he was put to work on the White Sea Canal. He was still very weak and was coughing up blood. Because of his poor health he was discharged, but not allowed to go back to Ukraine. He tried to reach his sister, Widow Kornelius Goerzen, near Samara, but he was again arrested and sent to prison in Tashkent. In this prison his memory began to suffer.

Food was very meagre - wet bread and a glass of water, but even that not every day. Every now and then a bowl of salty fish soup. Eventually he was so weak that he could not walk by himself, so he was pushed out the prison gate. Sympathetic Russian women took pity on him, gave him some food and money. He dragged himself onto a train, and eventually, with much help along the way, was able to reach his wife. In time they reached the Caucasus region, where work and more food were available. One of their sons contracted malaria, so they were advised to leave the region. Back they went to their old home, Paulsheim, Molotschna

In the autumn of 1937 the secret police were again at the door. Peter was arrested and sentenced to exile, this time to the Novosibirsk region. Because he no longer was able to work he received very meagre rations, so that he basically died of starvation on 4 March 1938.

Eldest son Gerhard was evacuated in 1941, likely to Kazakhstan. Katharina and the youngest son started out on the Great Trek 12 September 1943, reaching Poland 2 December 1943. Her son was drafted into the German Army in 1944. Now she was completely alone.

Katharina eventually reached Canada, at first settling in Namaka, Alberta on 28 April 1948. There she stayed with her brother, Gerhard Dirks. In three years she moved to Yarrow, British Columbia. After 12 years praying and trying she was able to contact her two sons. They both were alive and well in Russia, one had a family and lived in Karaganda, Kazakhstan. Katharina died 15 September 1974, with the funeral on 18 September in the Yarrow MB church.

Sources:

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol II pp 195-198

Mennonitische Rundschau, Obituary of Katharina Peters, 16 October 1974, p 11

GERHARD KORNELIUS PLETT

(1892-1937?)

Gerhard Kornelius Plett was born 19 July 1892 in Hierschau, Molotschna. He was the son of Kornelius Julius Plett (*Wirtschaft* No 16) and Margaretha Tobias Sperling, and the nephew of Elder Gerhard Plett, also of Hierschau. Gerhard became a Christian in his early years, and was accepted as a member of the Landskrone Mennonite Church, where his uncle was the elder. In time he was elected as minister of the Landskrone congregation.

Gerhard married Elisabeth Kroeker from Nikolaidorf, Molotschna. She was born 2 February 1893. Her parents were Peter and Katharina Kroeker. After the wedding in 1913, the couple lived in Hierschau. They had eight children: four girls (Anna, Susanna, Margareta, Elisabeth) and four boys (Kornelius, Heinrich, Gerhard, Peter). With the outbreak of World War I Gerhard was mobilized, leaving behind his wife with a six-day-old child. To this burden for Elisabeth was added the care of her brother's children, his wife having died.

In 1921 Elisabeth's mother died of typhus; Gerhard and Elisabeth also came down with the disease, but survived. In 1924 Elisabeth again had a serious disease, and was apparently given two weeks to live. She looked at her five children with pity, the youngest being only eight months of age. But she recovered, and was thankful to God for her restoration to health.

Because Gerhard was a minister the Soviet authorities came onto the yard one day in 1931, and took everything; he was also disenfranchised. This was not enough. In August 1931 Gerhard was arrested and jailed in Melitopol. His eldest son Kornelius, 15 years of age at the time, had to transport his father to the prison on a wagon. On the way Gerhard encouraged his son to obey his mother and to give her joy. The youngest daughter was only five months old at the time.

Wife Elisabeth was able to visit Gerhard in prison on only four occasions. He was being tortured severely; for example, needles were being driven under his nails. From Melitopol Gerhard was sentenced to five years in exile.

What a pleasant surprise it was for the family when Gerhard came stumbling back in 1936. Some of the older children had left home by that time to work elsewhere, but they returned home. The younger ones did not recognize their father. It was such a joy for the whole family to be together again; the whole neighbourhood was happy! But the joy was short-lived. Gerhard was rearrested 20 October 1937 and again sent into exile. He has not been heard from since.

In 1941 the four sons of the family were deported, likely sent eastward. Elisabeth with four daughters escaped on the Great Trek, but somewhere along the way she was separated from three of them. Elisabeth eventually reached Canada with her daughter Anna, and in 1950 lived in Hepburn, Saskatchewan. Daughters Susanna and Elisabeth in time reached Canada and the USA, while Margaret remained in Russia. Sons Kornelius and Heinrich lived in Russia. Gerhard had been arrested and not heard from. Peter had earlier died.

Elisabeth died in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on 19 September 1972, after a stroke.

Sources:

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol II pp 93-95

Plett Family information

Mennonitische Rundschau, Obituary 11 October 1972, p 12, also in *Der Bote*, 3 October 1972, p 7

ISAAK JOHANN POETTKER

(about 1895-after 1937)

Isaak Johann Poettker was born, raised and lived in Wernersdorf. Molotschna. His father's name was likely Johann Johann Poettker, who was a minister; his mother then would have been Elisabeth Braun. Presumably Isaak completed the local village school and probably also a *Zentralschule* in the region. Quite early in life he accepted the Lord as Saviour, and felt called to labour in the Kingdom of God. He supplemented his religious education at a Bible School in Berlin, then also took a medical course in England, learning homeopathy. He continued the practice of homeopathy as a secondary pursuit in later life.

Isaak established a youth choir in Wernersdorf, using it to praise the name of the Lord. He married one of the members of his choir, Luise Kornelius Wolf. She was the only daughter in the Kornelius Wolf family; she had three brothers, Kornelius, Dietrich and Peter. All three were later arrested and exiled. Isaak and Luise had three children, the eldest two being Magdalena and Paulina.

The area of particular interest for Isaak was evangelism, especially in the Molotschna Mennonite Colony and the surrounding Russian villages. In one Molotschna village his work was quite successful; a number of people had accepted the Lord, including several young ladies. Walking to his quarters after one of the meetings he was attacked by a number of youths with sticks and quite severely beaten.

A letter from wife Luise written to friends in Canada in May 1928 noted that Isaak was spending the whole winter at a Russian Bible School in Leningrad. The letter does not specify whether he was a teacher or a student, but the presumption is that he was a teacher.

In 1929 the village collective farm, "*Nadezhda*" (Hope) was being formed in Wernersdorf. In this process at least nine families were forced from their homes as kulaks. This included the Isaak Poettker family. The fact that Isaak was a minister probably added to the urgency of the expulsion. The Poettkers moved to the Caucasus region, where they lived in the Mennonite village of Kalantarovka. To help in the family finances Luise worked as a midwife.

But the Stalin purge reached even the Caucasus. A total of 32 men were arrested, taken from home and family in Piatogorsk, likely in March, 1937. After three months' incarceration, at a public trial, four of the men were sentenced to death. They were Isaak Poettker, Elder Heinrich T Janz of Landskrone, Johann Koop and Nikolai Reimer. It is assumed that the latter two were also ministers. Luise visited her husband periodically, finding that the difficult circumstances had changed him from an active young man to a white-haired gentleman.



Isaak Poettker, wife Luise and daughters Magdalena and Paulina

Possibly through letters written by Luise, with her pleading for mercy, the sentences of all four were commuted to ten years of exile in Siberia. At his place of banishment Isaak was able to function as a dentist. All exchange of letters was soon stopped.

Luise's mother came to live with her in the Caucasus. On 10 October 1941, before the invading German Army reached the area, Luise, and daughters Magdalena and Paulina were deported to the Kustanai in northern Kazakhstan. Nothing further has been heard from Isaak or of his family.

Sources:

Huebert, Helmut T, *Molotschna Historical Atlas*, Springfield Publishers, Winnipeg, Canada, 2003, pp 196-197

Letskemann Notes

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol I pp 220-222, 292-294

ABRAHAM ABRAHAM REMPEL

(some sources write Abram)

(1903-1937)

Abraham Abraham Rempel was born 16 October 1903 in Hochfeld, Yasykovo Colony. His father was Abraham P Rempel, his mother Maria Wiebe. He completed the village school, and a few years of *Zentralschule*. He accepted the Lord at a relatively young age, and was accepted as a member of the Mennonite Brethren Church. He was a Sunday School teacher, and also preached on occasion. Abraham married Anna Froese of Schoeneberg, Chortitza Colony, in 1931. She was born 24 October 1903; she was the daughter of Johann Froese and the sister of Heinrich Froese. Anna was also a dedicated Christian. The couple had three children: Anna, Maria and Heinrich.

The family started off on top of the world. Abraham got a well-paying job in an office; it was almost too good to be true. His premonition was soon confirmed. At 7 PM one evening he was invited to visit the offices of the GPU. Conversation started politely enough. Could he report on happenings at his place of work, in short, be a police spy? Polite talk turned into serious threats, continuing on into the night. Abraham declined. He was brought in several more times, each time being threatened with dire consequences. Abraham was finally put in jail, in a cell with the worst offenders. As the jailer brought him into the cell he told the other prisoners "But this fellow you leave alone!" He had a little money with him, which he gave to his cell mates. Eventually the authorities gave up on Abraham. After three days he was released, told to go home, but to leave the district within two hours. "Then you can continue to preach wherever you are." Secret arrangements were made for a friend to pick up the Rempels, and with only bare necessities they caught a train to the Caucasus region. There they stayed with mountain people. At first there was animosity, but once the natives got to know the Rempels, they were friendly.

Things went well for one and a half to two years. People were writing from home that things had changed, and that they could perhaps have their house back. But it did not work out that way! The Rempels returned to Schoeneberg, where he, without making a fuss, worked in an office. The local Mennonite church had lost its leader, Minister Bernhard Dyck of Hochfeld, because he was exiled for three years. Abraham and Jakob Wiebe were asked to serve. Ordination was not possible at that time. Then October 1936 came. Abraham was again apprehended. Four or five men from the village had been "taken" and under duress had signed confessions of guilt. Now it was Abraham's turn. Since he did not come home for the night his wife Anna took him a breakfast in jail – it was actually a ploy to find out what had happened. Abraham was still there, but refused to eat the breakfast. Finally Anna had to leave the room, presumably so he could eat in private. But from the back room she could hear the loud threats her husband was receiving. The authorities eventually gave up, allowed Abraham to go home, with the promise that they would come to pick him up in three days. They did not come. The men who had signed confessions retracted them; they were exiled. At work there was increasing difficulty; when it was necessary Abraham doubled as hog farmer and night-watchman.

Then came the terrible night of 29 October 1937. A large truck arrived in the village, and with much turmoil and screaming, "You are enemies of the people! You are enemies of the people!" 17 men were picked up, all but two being members of the Mennonite Brethren Church. The arrested men were taken without food, clothes or shoes to a prison in Nikopol. Wives could later send them

the necessities, but were not allowed to deliver them personally. Relatives received a card telling them where the men could be found, so that farewells could be said. The wives were allowed 15 minutes, three at a time. The men had to speak only Russian and the wives received a similar order, although it was said, "Mrs Rempel spoke Low German."

Eventually all the men were thought to have been exiled. Subsequent information was that the whole group, likely including Abraham, was executed 25 November 1937 in Zaporozhye.

With her husband gone, Anna had to work all day long to put bread onto the table, leaving the three children alone at home. Occasionally a passing neighbour might drop in to see how things were going.

Abraham was rehabilitated on 6 December 1966.

Wife Anna with the three children eventually escaped to Paraguay.

Sources:

Letkemann Notes, especially relating to Schoeneberg, Choritza

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol I pp 258-261

Personal Family information

GERHARD JAKOB REMPEL (1885-1937)

Gerhard Jakob Rempel was born 20 March 1885 in Rosenthal, Chortitza Colony. His parents were Jakob Gerhard Rempel and Katharina Sawatzky. Gerhard was the eldest of five children, his siblings being Jakob (1886), Johann (1888), Katharina (1889) and Maria (1895). Gerhard began *Dorfschule* in Rosenthal; then the family moved to Gruenfeld in the Schlachtin Mennonite Colony, where he completed his elementary schooling. His father Jakob owned a large mill in Gruenfeld.

Gerhard probably completed *Zentralschule* in Chortitza. He was baptized on 1 June 1910 in Gruenfeld. He remained a firm Christian for the rest of his life and a church member when that was possible. He was sent to Germany to learn engineering, Chemnitz, Saxony, being one of the locations where he studied. There he likely attended the *Koenigliche Gewerbschule* (Royal Mercantile College),



Gerhard Jakob Rempel



The wedding photograph of
Aganeta and Gerhard

now renamed
C h e m n i t z

University of Technology. In 1913 he returned to Russia, working at the Koop factory in Einlage as a design engineer.

On 23 July 1917 Gerhard married Aganeta Koop. She was born 3 August 1893 in Einlage, Chortitza Colony. She was the daughter of Peter Abraham Koop and Anna Kornelius Loewen. Peter was the son of Abraham Jakob



Aganeta Koop

Koop, the founder of the A J Koop Factory of Einlage and Schoenwiese. Aganeta was therefore the granddaughter of the founder of the factory for which Gerhard worked.

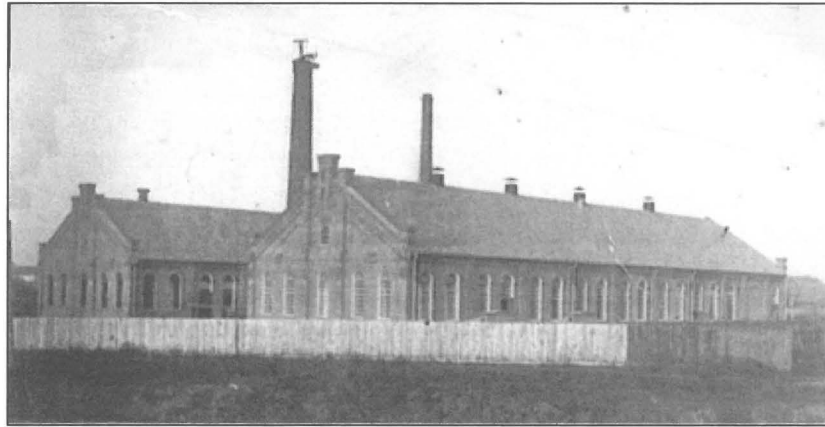
Anna was baptized 13 May 1912 in Einlage. Gerhard and Aganeta had two children:

1. Anna Gerhard - born 17 October 1922 in Einlage, Chortitza Colony. In Kharkov she took

some courses in drafting at a secondary school, she and her mother fled to Germany during the war, on the Great Trek. In Germany she had a child, Heide Irene Rempel, born 21 June 1947. In 1948 Aganeta, Anna and Heide emigrated to Canada, initially settling in Regina, where Anna obtained employment as a drafts person, then moving to Calgary when she was transferred by the Shell Oil Company in 1962. Anna still lives in Calgary (2008).

2. Jakob Gerhard - born 13 November 1924 in Einlage, Chortitza Colony. When he was 16 years of age Germany invaded Russia. To avoid the risk of being drafted by the German military he was arrested by the NKVD and sent to Siberia. He worked in the coal mines for some time, then moved in with a Russian family because he looked like their son. He tried to pass university entrance exams, but failed because of his German name. Under an assumed Russian name he was accepted and graduated as a geologist. After some time he was quite ill and was hospitalized. He fell in love with one of the nurses and married her, Tamara Ilya Deriabin, in about 1950 in Ivdel, Ural Region. He accepted his wife's last name to avoid being thought of as German. They had two children, Sergei and Irena. Jakob died in 2000.

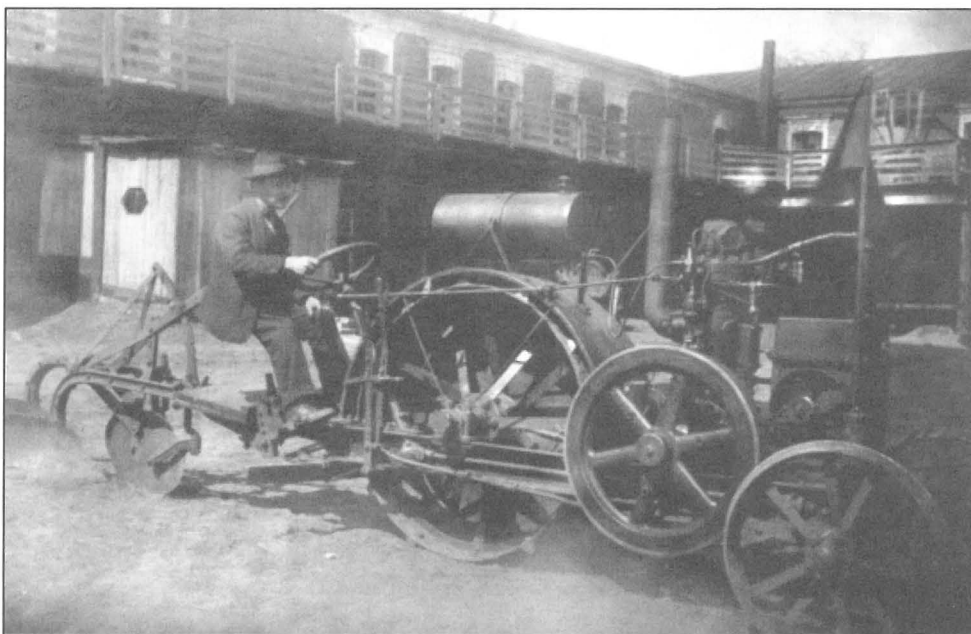
Gerhard continued to work for the Koop Factory in Einlage. He was part of the design team which built the first tractor ever produced in Ukraine. He worked together with two engineers, A A Unger and Kornelius Johann Pauls. According to work logbooks preliminary calculations for the tractor had begun in the Koop Factory even before World War I (1914). Despite Gerhard's



The A J Koop Factory in Einlage, where Gerhard worked

grave misgivings that the wheels did not have enough spokes, and thus were too weak, production of the "Zaporozhetz 1" proceeded. To actually achieve the expected timing deadlines, the factory workers needed to work two shifts, and also on weekends. The technical specifications were: 12 horse-power motor which used two pud (16 kilograms) of unrefined (diesel) oil per dessiatine; with a two share plough it took off 65 vershoks of soil while moving at 2.5 verst per hour.

The "Zaporozhetz 1" was presented at the first "All-Russian Agricultural Exhibition" in May of 1923 in Moscow and won high acclaim. It was awarded a gold medal, and some of those involved in its production were offered more prestigious positions. Chief project manager Dmitri Belinka was offered a position in Moscow, and designer Gerhard Rempel was transferred as designer engineer to Factory Communar in Zaporozhye. At an international fair in Teheran the power of the "Zaporozhetz 1" was rated as higher than the internationally known "Fordson." Perhaps the greatest accolades came from the farmers who actually used the tractor. An article describing the reaction said, "We ran along side of it in a deep furrow, shouting, laughing and smearing each other with the greasy soil..."



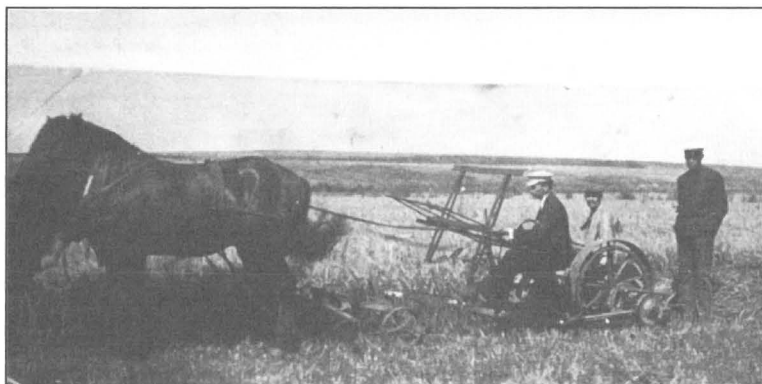
Gerhard Rempel testing the tractor "Zaporozhets 1"

It could not be truthfully said that everyone who actually used the new tractor had unstinting praise for the machine. The first model had three wheels, two in front to steer, and one wide back wheel. With this mechanical design it tended to be prone to tipping, which it often did, certainly in the experience of the students of the

Nikolaipol School of Agriculture. The second model had four wheels and was much more stable.

Rempel continued his work on various agricultural machines. He was praised for the design of a grain tractor/seeding machine, which received a gold medal at the International Exhibition in Libau, Latvia. He was appointed chief manager of the technical bureau of a large factory which produced seeding machines in Zinovjewst (Kirovograd). The Rempel family moved from Einlage to Zaporozhye in 1925, presumably following Gerhard's promotion, then in 1929 to Kirovograd.

But the storm clouds were beginning to gather. The Soviets were beginning to look askance at any minority group, particularly Germans. Added to that Gerhard was the son of a mill owner, married to the granddaughter of a factory owner. There were plans to exile him for five years, but taking into account his talent and hard work this was reduced to a "social reproach." But the time of purges had begun, largely on the basis of completely fictitious charges.



Three friends on a machine: Gerhard Rempel sitting, Peter Dyck behind him, Kornelius Pauls standing

In 1933 Rempel was arrested and jailed in Odessa for participating in "counter-revolutionary organizations." It was his impression that the real reason was that the tractor in some instances had failed because of the weak wheels. He was released after 13 months, on 22 May 1934, on the orders of Golinkov, Chief of Second Expert Administration. Participation in "counter-revolutionary

organizations” had not been proven. Gerhard was even given a year’s salary for the time he had spent in jail. His previous record allowed him to obtain a position in Kharkov as an engineer in the Ukrainian Scientific Exploration Institute of Agricultural Machinery. So the family moved to Kharkov in 1934.

In Kharkov the Rempels lived in Apartment No. 4, Frunze Street No. 21. Gerhard was classified as a white-collar office worker, with university training in mechanical engineering. He did not belong to any political party, was listed as a German USSR citizen, not subject to military service, and had not served in any army. He was not listed as having experienced any “repressions.”

In 1937 Commissioners Ordzhenikze and Yezhov arrived at the Institute (actually a factory producing combines and repairing military aircraft). Ordzhenikze was pleased with the work of the factory. Yezhov, head of the NKVD, the People’s Commissioner of Internal Affairs, was not. There were too many engineers of German ancestry, and too many Poles, Austrians, Serbs and Greeks in the shops. Apparently the “conditions were ripe in this multinational collective for the formation of a complex international diversified spy organization.” According to the report of Yezhov of March 1937 the specific aim of the NKVD was to “expose supporters of anti-Soviet Trotskyist centres on locations” wherever they were. On this basis the days of the leading engineers of Communar in Zaporozhye, Dyck, Hamm and Pauls were numbered, as well as those of their friend and colleague, Gerhard Rempel. Gerhard was accused of spying for Germany, starting in 1913, plotting to separate Ukraine from the Soviet Union, and creating an independent Ukraine. Dyck,

Hamm and Pauls were arrested in April of 1937, and executed 17 September 1937. Gerhard was arrested on 4 August 1937 in Kharkov and imprisoned in Odessa. By the decision of the NKVD of USSR order No. 00439 he was convicted on 25 December, No I category. The “first degree of punishment” meant execution. The sentence was carried out on 26 December 1937 in Odessa.



Aganeta, Irene (Heide) and Anna in 1951

After her husband had been arrested Aganeta obtained a job in a toy factory cleaning doll heads. Finding that this was too hard on her hands, she found another job in the factory using a hammer to make rakes. When this was also too difficult she worked in a tuberculosis clinic which treated students.

In 1941 son Jakob was arrested by the NKVD and deported to Siberia before the German Army could reach the area. He eventually became a geologist and died in Russia in the year 2000. Aganeta and daughter Anna likely joined the Great Trek and fled to Germany towards the end of World War II. In Germany Anna had a child, Heide Irene Rempel on 21 June



Jakob Deriablin (Rempel) in 1957

1947. The three of them emigrated to Canada in 1948, first living in Regina until Anna was transferred to Calgary, Alberta by her company in 1962. Aganeta died in Calgary on 30 September 1988 at the age of 95. Anna still lives in that city (2008).

A Military Tribunal of the Kiev Military Region, chaired by J Kozlov, reviewed the case against Gerhard on 16 August 1957. The decision of the Commission NKVD USSR and the prosecutor of USSR was abolished and the decision overturned. Gerhard Jakob Rempel was declared exonerated or rehabilitated.

Sources:

Rempel family history, Anna Rempel, Calgary

Shevelyev, Mark, "Wer entwarf den ersten Traktor" Translated into English by Vitalius Martens, sent in by Laurence Klippenstein, *Der Bote*, 17 April 1996 pp 5, 12, with responses 15 May 1996 pp 5, 7 and 15 June 1996 pp 9, 12

Shevelyev, Mark, "Rempel's Wheel," Article in *Auto ZAZ News*, 7 April 1998, translated by Anna Rempel

Mark Shevelyev is the Director of the Factory Museum where the first tractor was built

NIKOLAI PETER REMPEL

(sometimes written Nicolai)

(1891-1938?)

Nikolai Peter Rempel was born 6 January 1891 on an estate near Station Sofiefka, Ekaterinoslav (one source says Schoenhorst, Chortitza). His parents were Peter Rempel and Margaretha Thiessen. He completed *Zentralschule* in Gnadenfeld, then went to the *Realschule* of A A Neufeld in Berdyansk. He was a good student at this school, and a classmate of H Goerz, who was later a writer and historian. After completion of his education Nikolai spent a few years at the home of his parents, likely on the estate. He was then drafted into the *Forstei*, spending six years at the Anadol *Forstei* Station.

Returning home he found that bandits had occupied the estate. The Rempel family, however, had managed to survive. In 1926 Nikolai purchased a *Wirtschaft* in Friedensdorf, Molotschna. On 8 July 1928 he married Katharina Neufeld, who was born on Estate Ebenfeld near Gulyaipole on 5 January 1894. They had three children, Nikolai (1929), Rita and Maria (1936). Maria died at the age of two years, sometime after the arrest of her father.

With collectivization Nikolai became secretary of the Friedensdorf kolkhoz, but not for long. He was arrested on several occasions, and was imprisoned in Melitopol. Feeling the tension in Friedensdorf, he spent a winter in Tokmak, then a further year in a Russian village near Memrik. Finally he came back to Friedensdorf, where he worked as a carpenter for the kolkhoz.

When something went wrong with the construction, not of his own doing, Nikolai and three of his helpers, former farmers, were arrested in the summer of 1937. Nikolai was taken from the field straight to the jail in Waldheim. Several days later the prisoners were taken away by truck, under heavy guard. The road out led through Friedensdorf; the Rempel family was lined up in front of their home, but Nikolai dared to give them only a fleeting glance. It is likely that waving or greeting had been strictly forbidden. It is presumed that Nikolai and his helpers were found guilty and sentenced to exile in some remote region of Russia.

One year later a telegram came from Nikolai, that he was alive and well, and he asked about the children. The address was so smudged on the paper that the family could not reply.

Nikolai has not been heard from since. Presumably he died in exile.

Wife Katharina and the children survived the Great Trek and in 1948 reached Canada.

Source

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol II pp 198-199

Rempel family information

PETER JAKOB SAWATZKY

(1886- ?)

Peter Jakob Sawatzky was born 14 June 1886 in Wiesenfeld, Pavlograd District, Province of Ekaterinoslav. He was the youngest of 16 children of Jakob J Sawatzky and Maria Huebert. He was an especially lively and clever boy. His schooling began in 1893, with teacher Johann Pauls, then from 1899 on it was Adolf Reimer. He was able to go right into the second class at the Halbstadt *Zentralschule*. Upon completion of that school he took two years of teacher training. Peter obtained a teaching position near Gulyaipole, then, after that with German Baptists in Karkhov Province.

As a youth Peter accepted the Lord as his Saviour; he was baptized 23 March 1904, and joined the Mennonite Brethren Church. In villages where he taught, he was on occasion asked to preach. In time, however, he came to the conclusion that this was not his particular avocation. In the summer of 1903 Gerhard D Duerksen gave some seminars in Wiesenfeld to prepare students for entry into higher level teacher training institutions. Duerksen himself was studying Medicine at the University of Odessa. Despite being discouraged by his family, Peter decided to follow this path. First he studied at, and graduated from, the eight-class Classical *Gymnasium* in Ekaterinoslav. Here he lived very frugally, since his financial resources were limited. From there he went to study Medicine at the New Russian University of Odessa. During this time World War I broke out, so that he started working in a military hospital even before he had finished his studies.

Peter married Margaretha Reimer on 29 June 1916. She was a daughter of the well-known teacher, Cornelius Reimer of Wiesenfeld, and sister of Jakob C Reimer of Sardis, BC. As honeymoon the couple travelled to the Bethania Psychiatric Hospital near Einlage, where Peter covered emergency calls for a time. Then it was back to Odessa to work at the military hospital and to complete his medical studies. His wife Margaretha was also active, completing her training as nurse, then working as secretary in the Red Cross office in Odessa. Peter completed his studies in the autumn of 1918. With Revolution and Civil War raging, the Sawatzkys had a difficult time getting to Peter's home. Via a very stormy voyage across the Black Sea to Sevastopol, then north by train, they at last reached Wiesenfeld. A year later they moved south to Karassan in the Crimea, where Peter obtained a medical position. It took steady nerves and a trusting faith in God to set up a practice under such circumstances. During the time of the White Army occupation Peter was transferred to Dshankoy to battle typhus, which had broken out in the military and in the civilian population. He himself contracted the disease, and nearly died. Many people prayed for him.

After the epidemic of typhus Peter returned to Karassan, where he worked diligently until 1923. At that time a new supervisor took over the region who was not friendly to the pious Mennonite doctor, so they left Karassan to settle in a Lutheran district at Naimann. Here the Sawatzkys had a fairly good house and he worked in a small hospital. At first the population did not trust the new doctor and only came to see him with serious emergencies. In time Peter's friendly manner, conscientious practice and efficient scheduling brought him more patients than he could handle. The surrounding Tatars and even Muslim women allowed him to examine them.

The wider Sawatzky family had to flee from their traditional home in Wiesenfeld to Gnadenfeld in the Molotschna. A number of them had also migrated to North America and pointed out that it was easy for Christian physicians to find employment there. Yet the Peter Sawatzky

family delayed until it was too late.

Peter and Margaretha had two children, Woldemar and Agnes. When the children reached high-school age the family moved to the city of Theodosia, where the appropriate educational institutions were available. From there son Woldemar went to Odessa to pursue medical studies. There was no lack of work, but there was an increasing anti-German sentiment and also jealousy of colleagues, who were looking for opportunity to turn Peter in. 1936 became 1937.

On the night of 18 November 1937 black NKVD automobiles sped through the villages and cities of the Crimea, and the next morning many of the men were missing. Peter was among those arrested and imprisoned. His wife Margaretha tried everything to have him freed. First there was one year of interrogation, which usually meant severe torture. Then he was sentenced to ten years in exile. Margaretha was able to visit him at his place of exile on one occasion. It was a difficult journey, and she had to tramp for hours through swampy forest till she finally reached the concentration camp. She found him to be suffering, to be very thin and homesick, but willing to submit to the will of God. After the visit she received a few more letters from him. Somewhat later he complained of being sick....then nothing.

Son Woldemar, together with other students of the University of Odessa, was sent further east when the German Army approached the city in 1941, and has not been heard from since that time. It is not known what happened to wife Margaretha and daughter Agnes.

Sources

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol II pp 44-47

PETER JAKOB TOEWS
(1897-1943)

Peter Jakob Toews was born 14 January 1897 in Ohrloff, Molotschna. His parents were Jakob Wilhelm Toews and Elisabeth Klassen. He attended the village school in Ohrloff, then must have spent a number of years working at home before he was drafted into the *Sanitaetsdienst* in 1916. He was released from the service in 1917, and returned home.

In 1919 Peter was baptized on the basis of his faith by an elder of the Ohrloff Mennonite Church, Jakob Wiens of Tiegerweide. He had been mobilized into the White Army in December 1918, where he first looked after business arrangements, then again served as medical orderly in a field hospital. October 1920 he returned home suffering from typhus. On 25 April 1921 Peter married Elisabeth K Janzen of Ohrloff; they had four children, Elisabeth, Helena, Peter and Maria.

Towards the end of May 1921 he went to court for his father, who could not pay the high fines which had been levied against him. Peter was, in the place of his father, condemned to death. Upon payment of a substantial bribe he was released after he had worked at the Bethania Mental Hospital for six weeks.

From 1921 to 1925 Peter was conductor of the Ohrloff church choir. He was elected as minister by the Ohrloff Mennonite Church, and tried to obtain further education by attending a number of courses put on by Elder David Epp, who lived in Lichtenau at the time, but served the churches in both Ohrloff and Lichtenau. Peter actually delivered his first sermon in July 1924, then on 15 February 1925 was ordained as minister by Elder Abraham Klassen of Neu-Halbstadt.

Seeing that circumstances were not favourable in Russia, Peter tried to obtain exit visas on a number of occasions, but each time was refused. Then in desperation he tried one more time, even going to Moscow in the autumn of 1929. Instead, he and his father were imprisoned. After 14 days he was sent south to his home. His family was not there as had been promised, so he returned to Moscow, found his whole family, then was again sent back home, this time with his family. He continued to preach the gospel, but since he had been disenfranchised, could not obtain work.

From time to time Peter was called to the village and regional Soviets and was threatened. He should stop preaching. Despite these threats he continued. Since there were few ministers in the village, he had much work to do, being on the road a lot. He even travelled as far as the Crimea to comfort the dying.

Towards autumn in 1932 Peter was tortured for two weeks in Halbstadt, then in August he was sentenced to three years of hard labour. He served the sentence in Kem, in the far north, near the White Sea. Because he had been a medical orderly in the past, he was posted to the hospital in the prison camp. He was released in January 1937, in reasonable health. He was united with his family in Melitopol, where like many others, they had found work. Even Peter found work there, although he had to periodically report to the secret police.

In December 1937, at night, he was again arrested and sent into exile. It is reported that Peter died in exile, on 14 July 1943. His family was deported to Siberia in 1943

Sources

Mennonitische Maertyrer Vol I pp 185-186

Personal family history

PETER PETER WIEBE

(1900-1937?)

Peter Peter Wiebe was born 8 April 1900, probably in Chortitza, Chortitza Colony. His parents were Peter Peter Wiebe and Aganetha Klassen, who owned a grocery store in Chortitza. Son Peter had at least four siblings; Gerhard was older, Helena was two years younger (1902), and Aganetha was the youngest. Father Peter was shot outside his own store in Chortitza by Makhno bandits during the unsettled times prior to the Communist takeover. Makhno overran the area in September of 1919, with a number of atrocities in the village at the time, so it is most likely that Peter was murdered then. He was age 56.

In his younger years son Peter was in the *Sanitaetsdienst*. Mennonites had worked out an agreement with the Czarist government that instead of being drafted into the active military service they could serve in the forests (*Forsteidiens*t) or as orderlies in the medical corps (*Sanitaetsdienst*). During World War I there were about 6,500 men in each of these services. Peter was in the medical corps, but no further details are known.

Peter in time became a bookkeeper, so he must have attended the local *Dorfschule* and the *Zentralschule*. He may have had additional training to qualify him for his position. He worked in a business owned by relatives, and seemed to enjoy his work.



Peter Peter Wiebe



Choir of the *Allianzgemeinde*, Peter second row third from left; Elisabeth Loewen just behind him and to his left. At the time his uncle, Abram Klassen, second row fourth from the left, was still the conductor

Peter was conductor of the Chortitza *Allianzgemeinde* choir. An uncle, Abram Klassen, was the senior conductor and a minister. Presumably Peter in time became the lead conductor. One of the singers in Peter's choir was Elisabeth Loewen; she was born 8 May 1900. Elisabeth must have been an accomplished singer, sometimes doing solo work for the choir. It could have been this connection that in time led to their marriage in April of 1923. Elisabeth's parents were Jakob and Susanna Loewen of Chortitza.

Peter and Elisabeth had five children. They were: Peter (29 August 1924), Walter (13 March 1927), Susanna (8 August 1929), Paul (16 April 1933) and Aganetha (Nettie) (2 February 1936). Both Peter and Elisabeth had a strong faith in God and were willing church workers. The Jakob Loewen family lived in the village of Chortitza, the famous "Old Oak" actually being on their property. The young

Wiebe family at first lived there until they got their own little house.

Without warning Peter was arrested during Stalin's purge on 15 December 1937. The family is not aware of any particular reason for the arrest, so it may simply have been his turn to fill a regional quota. Three NKVD officers announced their presence at the front door with loud pounding with rifle butts. They had with them the next door neighbour, a Russian, for the purpose of being a witness to the arrest. The NKVD men rifled through the drawers, cupboards and shelves until they found "damning evidence of spying," a letter from Peter's relatives in Canada. Peter was ordered to go with the officers. By that time both Peter and Elisabeth were crying, as well as their older children. Elisabeth gave Peter a Bible, and shared half a loaf of bread with him for the "journey." The only bread left for Elisabeth and the five children was the other half of the loaf. As Peter stood at the door to leave into the terrible rainstorm outside, he clutched his Bible to his bosom and quoted his favourite verse, Hebrews 10:39: "But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved." Peter Peter Wiebe has never been seen since that night. At least another eight men were arrested in Chortitza on the same night.



Son Peter, Elisabeth and Peter

The Wiebe family left the USSR by train during the German occupation in 1943, first settling Poland, then later in East Friesland. They migrated from Germany to Canada, landing in Quebec 18 August 1948. They settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba. There Paul has followed in his father's footsteps, being a choir conductor for many years. It is likely that Peter was a bass, whereas son Paul is a very good tenor.

Sources:

- Bergen, Heinrich, *Chortitza Colony Atlas (Altkolonie)*, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, 2004, p 22 map 9
- Kroeker, N J, *First Mennonite Villages in Russia: 1789-1943*, self-published, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 1981, pp 124 (map), 215
- News Item, List of people murdered in the Chortitza Colony 1917-1921, *Mennonitische Rundschau*, 19 July 1922, p 5; Peter Peter Wiebe age 56 is listed
- Wiebe, Paul, of Winnipeg Canada, personal and family information



Abram Huebert with wife Sophie
and children in 1924

Additional Pictures of victims



Jacob Huebert and wife Anna
Janzen, wedding picture 1905



Hermann Lepp with wife Olga Janzen



Elisabeth Janzen and Johann Huebert
about 1904



Jakob Peter Bargaen



Minister Aron Regehr

LAST WORDS.....

Some victims of the purge were able to speak to their loved ones, occasionally even pray with them, but most were rudely plucked out of the lives of their families. A few samples of parting words and thoughts have been recorded.

Johann Johann Giesbrecht (p 220)

...They searched the place for one to one and a half hours, then took son Johann away. He himself assured the family that he would be back in a few days since he was totally innocent. Wife Maria was able to visit Johann in jail a week or two later. They had tortured him and he looked all beaten up....

Nikolai Johann Loewen (p 236)

Nikolai turned, went back to his wife and embraced her one last time. He went to the bed of his oldest son, the six-year-old Harry, put a hand on his head and said, "Harry, I might not see you again. Be good to mother and help her as much as you can." Then he went with his captors. The motor of the "Black Raven" started, and they were off.

Kornelius Kornelius Martens (p 241)

He led Bible studies, and also preached on occasion. In the spring of 1937 he was once again asked to report to the police headquarters. With a premonition of impending trouble he said, "Soon my turn will come, and my only crime is that I have faithfully served my Lord and Saviour."

On the night of 6 August 1937, the police searched their rooms, and confiscated some of his papers. Kornelius was jailed in Stalino....

Peter Peter Wiebe (p 264)

Elisabeth gave Peter a Bible, and shared half a loaf of bread with him for the "journey." The only bread left for Elisabeth and the five children was the other half of the loaf. As Peter stood at the door to leave into the terrible rainstorm outside, he clutched his Bible to his bosom, and quoted his favourite verse, Hebrews 10:39: "But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved." Peter Peter Wiebe has never been seen since that night.

1937

By Anna Neugebauer

1937 – das schreckliche Jahr!

1937 – die schreckliche Zahl!

Vergesse ich doch nimmer!

Es steht vor meinen Augen mir

So klar, so deutlich immer.

Nie kann ich vergessen Dezember Naechte,

Die leeren Strassen, das Klopfen der Herzen,

Die Menschen, die warten auf furchtbare Naechte,

Die ruhen nicht koennen bei Tag und bei Nacht,

Die immer sich schrecken, die immer sich plagen.

Und immer sich fragen:

“Was hab ich gemacht?

Wem hab’ ich getan zu Leid was hier?

Wer gibt mir Antwort, wer glaubt es mir?

Gerissen fort von Weib und Kind,

Die jetzt auf ewig Weisen Sind.

Was ist meine Schuld, wer sagt es mir?”

Horcht, Horcht, es klopft, macht auf die Tuer!

Herein sie dringen mit grosser Macht

Obwohl es ist schon tiefe Nacht.

Weiss ist mein Bruder, wie die Wand.

Ich hab’ ihn damals schwer erkannt.

Er sagt kein Wort, er ist verstummt

Nur tiefer die Falten um seinen Mund.

Nun sind sie fertig – alles verkramt

Gesucht und nichts gefunden.

Bereit ist schon das kleine Gepaeck

Im weissen Tuechlein gebunden.

Die letzten Schritte sind verhallt

Die letzen Worte sind verschallt

Das letzte, was er sagte war:

“Weinet nicht, ich komme bald!”

Bald, ja bald! So viele Jahre

Keine Briefe, keine Nachricht!

Weiss der Schwester und des Bruder’s Haare

Und Keiner nicht mehr wartet

Und Keiner nicht mehr glaubt

Das wir uns wiederschen ueberhaupt.

ANNA NEUGEBAUER

Anna Neugebauer, poet who wrote "1937," was born 23 October 1925 in Kondratyeka, Borissovo Colony, Ukraine. Her parents were Johann Dyck and Aganetha Kirsch, who were married in 1924. They had one other child, Johann, born 1 January 1929. Aganetha, as a single woman, had previously adopted her orphaned nephew, Jacob Dyck. The Dycks were very poor, for example having received only one towel as wedding gift.

In 1930 a collective farm was organized in the region. The Dycks were considered to be middle-class farmers, so they were not expelled as kulaks. Father Johann died in 1934 of cancer; Aganetha continued to work on the collective.

In 1937 the brutal Stalin initiated Great Purge struck Kondratyevka with vengeance. About 80 men were arrested, many towards the end of the year, never to be heard from again. Among these were cousins and relatives of the Dyck family, including adopted son Jacob Dyck, as well as other relatives, Johann Dyck and Hermann Dyck. So many of the teachers were taken that the German school had to be closed.

In 1941, with the onset of the German invasion of Russia in June, all the Mennonites of Kondratyevka were evacuated to Kazakhstan. In 1942 Anna was drafted into the Forced Labour Army, where she worked very hard under difficult circumstances, but was able to survive.

In 1948 Anna was able to return to Kazakhstan to be with her mother and brother Johann. She arrived there on her twenty-third birthday, 25 October. There the family worked on a collective farm. In 1950 she married Wilhelm Neugebauer, who, with his parents, lived in the same village. They had originally come from Konstantinovka, not far from where the Dycks had lived. Wilhelm was a "tractorist," apparently a fairly good occupation.

After the death of Stalin in 1953, conditions improved somewhat. Mother Aganetha died in 1982 at the age of 95. Anna and Wilhelm had a family, and some of their married children moved to nearby cities such as Pavlodar. In 1992 Anna and Wilhelm, with two children and their families, moved to Germany.

In 1995 Anna wrote "...we are content and thankful that the heart still beats and the feet still carry us, thankful that we can go to bed in quietness and thankful for plenty of food, and we want to strive to live for and serve our Saviour."

Anna and Wilhelm now, in 2008, live in Selm, Germany.

**Poem/song written by Abram Duerksen and Jakob Regehr
While in Prison in 1937**

Es war an die tausendneunhundert
Im siebenunddreissigsten Jahr,
Als ich von den Meinen gerissen
Und fort gefuehret war.
 Sie fuehrten mich in das Gefaengnis
 Und stellten Zeugen dar,
 dass ich ein Feind des Volkes
 und Vaterlandes war.
Drauf haben sie mich gerichtet
auf zehn Jahre langer Haft.
Ich fuehle mich wie vernichtet
In der Gefangenschaft.
 Ich dachte an meine Kinder
 Und an mein trautes Weib,
 wie sie in der Heimat nicht minder
 sich kraenken werden am Leib.
Doch hab ich noch eine Hoffnung
Die meinen wiederzusehen,
wenn nach der Verbannung vollendet
ich werd' in die Heimat zieh'n.
 Und sollt es hier nicht geschehen,
 mich leitet Gottes Hand.
 Im Himmel wird's besser werden,
 im freien herrlichen Land.
Dort gibt es ja keine Traenen,
und Banden gibt es dort nicht,
Dort werden wir froehlich singen
vor Gottes Angesicht.

Abram Duerksen, born 1904, lived in Neu-Halbstadt, Sagradovka. He was a brigadier in the local kolkhoz. He was arrested 17 September 1937, with his court appearance in Kherson on 8 May 1938. He was sentenced to ten years in prison, accused of "having connection with Hitler and planning to blow up a bridge." Peter Boldt from his own village was paid 120 rubles for his false testimony at court. Subsequent fate of Abram Duerksen is unknown.

Jakob Regehr, born in 1889, was a farmer living in Alexanderfeld, Sagradovka. He was one of 28 men arrested in the village in 1937, accused of being "enemies of the people." Jakob's subsequent fate is also unknown.

**THE NORTH AMERICAN
GERMAN MENNONITE PRESS
IN 1937**

ZIONSBOOTE

This was the official organ of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America, published in Hillsboro, Kansas. Most of the time it seemed to be totally oblivious to what was happening to the Mennonite brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union. Letters to the editor reported on Sunday services, prayer meetings, deaths and funerals, visiting ministers. There were occasional letters from South America.

Abram Kroeker, former editor of *Friedensstimme* of Halbstadt, published an article "Conditions in Russia" on 10 February. Unfortunately he spent most of his effort defending the situation in Germany, not actually informing the readers about the religious suppression in Russia.

One letter had sneaked past the Soviet border. Written in Halbstadt, Molotschna, by a woman designated "O," it was smuggled to Germany, then fell into the hands of Abram Kroeker, and was published 10 February. The writer was a Volhynian woman who complained that most of her compatriots had been sent to Siberia, although she herself had escaped and settled in with her aunt in Halbstadt. They worked on a collective farm, but could hardly make ends meet. Her lament was that "there is nobody here to whom one can express heartfelt misgivings." She pleads for relatives to write.

A letter from Winnipeg published 26 May remarks that even in the far north (Canada) spring weather has appeared. Then follows a brief exposition of II Timothy 3:1-5. After this there is a remarkable paragraph. "From Asia the news is no longer of the kind where they would complain of repression or starvation. The elderly are departing and the younger generation is apparently gradually getting used to the heavy yoke of Communism. The last letter, which reports a number of marriages, gave the impression, as it says, 'They ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day when Noah...' Luke 17:27. Should the wise virgins also fall asleep?" The writer from Winnipeg then continues with business as usual, asking for some of the ministers from the South (United States) to visit their small group. Either the writer of this letter was extremely cautious in hiding the news from the Soviet Union, or he was completely unaware of what was really going on. I suspect the latter.

The *Zionsbote* readership as a whole seems to have been completely oblivious to anything that happened anywhere else in the world, not only in Russia!

Sources:

All in *Zionsbote*

"Conditions in Russia" 10 February 1937, pp 9, 10

"A Letter" 10 February 1937, p 10

"An introductory word about help in Russia" 28 April 1937, pp 11, 12

E A Janzen, letter to the editor, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, 26 May 1937, p 6

DIE MENNONITISCHE RUNDSCHAU

In 1937 this was a general Mennonite publication based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It carried news from many parts of the world, and likely was the principal source of information for many of its readers. There were brief news bylines from world capitals, including London, Paris, Berlin, and in almost every edition also Moscow. The major news of the day was of great interest.

In the past the paper had been a frequent connection between Mennonites in Russia and North America. At the turn of the century (1900-1905) one correspondent from Russia sent in a total of 32 letters; he was sure that his friends in North America wanted to read about his favourite village in the Molotschna, Hirschau. With the Communist regime takeover in Russia, this communication decreased, and by the 1930s had slowed down to a trickle.

In 1937 *Die Mennonitische Rundschau* continued to carry frequent brief bylines from Moscow, but this involved only news from the official Soviet sources, and absolutely nothing specifically about Mennonites. There was some indication of turmoil, with reporting of the "Show Trials" of important people, apparently turned traitors. Of the 17 on trial at the time, all were found guilty, 13 to be executed, four to serve long prison terms. Reports from other newspapers on 3 February indicate that there was repression against religious officials in the Soviet Union. It was also feared that the government intended to implement a major revolutionary attack against the cultural world.

On 17 February it was reported that Leon Trotzky and hundreds of his followers were stricken from the list of Communist Party membership. Many influential citizens in all parts of the country were arrested for participating in "sabotage plots" as part of Trotzky's organization. So obviously the atrocities being carried out in the Soviet Union were known by the outside world, but there was no indication as to how severely this affected Mennonites, and no intimation that these same unfounded accusations would be leveled at thousands of them as well.

On 5 and 12 May there were a number of large pictures of the Royal Family, in honor of the Coronation. They were wished "Long live the King and Queen." The Mennonite love of royalty had obviously been transferred from the Czar and his family to the British royal family.

Byacheslaff Molotov, president of the Advisory Board of the People's Committee, on May 12 revealed that there was massive sabotage going on in Soviet industry. Stalin later agreed with this analysis. That is why there were so many breakdowns in factories; that is why they could not reach their quotas. Inefficiency, laziness, and just plain ignorance could of course have nothing to do with it. This principle was applied by Molotov to the Communar Factory in Zaporozhye, where a considerable number of Mennonites worked. Eventually it likely lead to the execution of a number of Mennonites.

Quite unexpectedly a letter arrived from the Soviet Union, responding to a letter sent from Canada on 21 March 1937. The people had not seen each other for seven years, so it was sent to someone who had left the Soviet Union in 1930. In the meantime, the writer reports, there had been many changes in the village (likely a Molotschna village). There was considerable building going on in their kolkhoz, but using only materials from structures they were tearing down, since it was impossible to obtain new building supplies. Spring had arrived, with seeding beginning 25 March. The gardens had already been seeded and planted – potatoes, corn and vegetables. The kolkhoz used three tractors, but there were also many horses, cattle, pigs, sheep and chickens. There was much work to be done on the very busy kolkhoz; unfortunately the hard work did not necessarily translate

into good pay. After deductions the pay per day in 1936 had been 32 kopecs – not a living wage.

The writer was saddened by the fact that for several years there had been no church services – no congregational or choir singing was to be heard, and Sunday was not celebrated, at least not in the busy time of the year. Many church buildings had been converted to clubs or theatres. The Mennonite church in Halbstadt had been torn down, the Russian church, minus tower and roof, was a storage room. The Neukirch church was being converted into a club. In Lichtfelde the former home of the bone doctor has been converted into a rehabilitation centre. There were plans to install electricity and telephone service into a number of villages, but so far nothing concrete had happened (*“Die Sache schwebt noch in der Luft.”*). To obtain radio service each farmer had to contribute 32 rubles. As a result, the village had only one loudspeaker. There was a great need for clothing, especially manufactured goods. But they could only be purchased in kind, bartering with grain or other products – hence most people were very needy.

The writer of this letter was known by the recipient, but the name was not published

Because Leon Trotzky was used as a scapegoat for many of the Soviet Union’s problems, and certainly as an excuse for arresting and executing many totally innocent people, Abram Kroeker provided a brief history of the former war minister. By this time Trotzky had long been expelled from the country (1929), and was living in Mexico. He was eventually murdered under the direction of Joseph Stalin on 21 August 1940. Kroeker’s conclusion: “Do not let the fact that he is presently an opponent of Stalin’s trouble you. This man is not good news for Russia or any other country.”

A 4-part series about Maria Martens, wife of Cornelius, the missionary to the Russians, began on 4 August. She was jailed for about five years, and was able to leave the Soviet Union in 1936, so it was safe to print her story in 1937.

Also on 4 August it was announced that Nikolai Wezhoff had been awarded the Order of Lenin for “ridding Russia of the ostensible adherents of Trotzky, and other such elements, who were enemies of the regime of Joseph Stalin.” The regime of Joseph Stalin that year executed a number of Mennonite holders of the Order of Lenin, so some extra medals must have been available.

The Soviet grain crop in 1937, according to a report on 18 August, broke all records, but even so an undetermined number of officials of the agricultural industry were severely punished. *Pravda* reported that during the collection of the quotas a number of irregularities had been discovered. That same day investigation of religious officials in the city of Orel was made public. They were accused of attempting to form a counter-revolutionary fascist organization. The conclusions drawn by the investigators were not yet known. Among those charged were Bishop Inokentyi, three former land-owners, a former prince, two former nuns and eight other prominent citizens. Of the total group, 16 had a previous history of being sentenced to exile. It should be noted that it was actually very common to rearrest those who had already been exiled.

On 15 September it was reported that the cleansing of the Soviet Union of undesirable elements was still in full swing. Industrial production had fallen well below the expected quotas, proving to the authorities “that there is widespread enemy spying and sabotage.” This increased awareness of espionage correlates with an increased number of arrests, banishments and judgements against so called “enemies of the people.”

A news item on 27 October stated, “It is assumed that the bloody elimination of ‘enemies of the people’ in Russia will soon come to an end. It is generally thought that the campaign to eliminate opposition to Stalin’s regime will end on 7 November, the twentieth anniversary of the

Bolshevik Revolution. The United Press determined that over 1,000 people were sacrificed in this process of cleansing, although the total number sentenced is much higher." Obviously neither the United Press or anybody else in the outside world had any idea of what was going on in the Soviet Union, neither the timing nor the massive numbers involved!

On 1 December it was reported that the number of women employed in heavy industry had risen. According to official Soviet statistics it was 3,304,000 in 1929. This rose by over 5 million to 8,492,000 in 1936, representing 39% of all workers in heavy industry. Not mentioned in this report, but obviously in time playing a role, was the fact that as increasing numbers of men were arrested, the percentage of women employed would have to rise!

There was some inkling of suffering in the Soviet Union, and at least some people tried to help. On 1 December 1937 a small advertisement mentioned the possibility of mailing packages of clothing and material to Russia. None of the people in Canada could have guessed that arrival of

such a package would almost certainly have been a cause for arrest of the recipient.

Also on 1 December it was confirmed that a number of executions had taken place to punish individuals who had used poisoning of enemies as a political tool. Strange accusations in a country where its ruler himself (Joseph Stalin) sometimes used that as a political solution.

A report on 8 December confirmed that the Soviet claim that religious freedom was to improve, and that anti-religious propaganda was about to be curtailed, was "absurd." In all about 120,000 churches had been closed. Half of the buildings had been destroyed, the other half turned into museums, factories, clubs, movie theatres, garages and storehouses.

The ongoing campaign to rid the Soviet Union of "enemies of the people" was reported on 22 December to have resulted in the execution of 14 enemies. Seven of the accused were veterinarians who had spread disease among cattle, in an effort to weaken the Soviet Union and to ruin its reputation.

Pakete nach Rußland!

Fertige Kleider und Wäsche, Wollentstoffe, Schuhe, Leinwandseide für Wäsche und Kleider und die verschiedensten anderen Sachen nach Wunsch, außer Baumwollentstoffe.

Bitte berichten Sie mir, was Sie nach Rußland senden möchten, ich gebe Ihnen genaue Auskunft und Muster.

Phone 29 229 **G. GIESBRECHT,** 62 Albert St., Winnipeg, Man.

Advertising for packages to be sent to Russia

Sources: all in *Die Mennonitische Rundschau*

Kroecker, Abram, *Leon Trotzky*, 21 July 1937, p 6

News Item from Moscow 4 August 1937, p 16; 18 August 1937, p 14; 18 August p 16;

15 September 1937, p 11; 27 October 1937, p 13; 8 December 1937, p 16

Advertising for food packages to Russia, 1 December 1937, p 13

DER BOTE

This was a weekly "Mennonite Family Newspaper" published in Rosthern, Saskatchewan. It catered to those who had migrated to Canada in the 1920s. Later it became the official publication of the Mennonite Church of Canada. It maintained strong ties to the old homeland, and regularly had a column "*Aus der alten Heimat*."

A letter dated 3 January 1937 was sent in by a minister. Towards the end of November 1936 a total of 32 men (*Glaubensbrueder* - presumably Mennonites) were in court and were sentenced. Four received the death penalty, the others 3-8 years in exile. The accusations were nothing but lies, but there was no shortage of false witnesses. Sentenced to death were Elder H Janz of Landskrone, Isaak Poetker, Johann Koop and Nikolai Reimer. After his sentencing Elder Janz testified to the court about what to him was worthwhile and holy.

Apparently a government edict prohibited the use of Martin Luther's writings in schools. A new interpretation of the Reformation was being worked on. Evidence would be presented that Luther and others were working for the benefit of the ruling classes.

The writer of a letter from Rosental, Chortitza, dated 31 January, decried the fact that the beloved house of God "has now been made into hell." The person refused to walk there, but the children had reported that it was painted red, almost all the windows were punched out, and inside it had been arranged as a theatre. "May the good Lord judge them," was the conclusion. This same writer on 3 May 1937 lamented the fact that at Easter the "second Easter holiday" was not celebrated. While there were certainly serious things to complain about, one gets the impression that either this writer purposely emphasized trivialities in order to get the letter past the censors, or simply did not know better.

On 12 May *Der Bote* joined with *Die Mennonitische Rundschau* in honoring the British Royal Family. Even the more recent immigrants quite easily transferred their loyalty from the Czar's family to that of the British crown.

A series of letters written by Bernhard Bernhard Epp from his place of banishment in northern Siberia to his uncle in Canada were published 14 July 1937. Despite suffering he could say, "I wish you and aunt Katharina the peace of our Saviour, with which I, in my difficult times, can have comfort. Why I have to live through such difficult times I do not know, but God does know." Both Bernhard and his wife soon died and were buried in northern Siberia.

The Caucasus was no different than the rest of the country. A letter published 15 September commented, "In the spiritual realm it is very sad here. Churches have been converted to clubs, religious meeting places to theatres. Evil takes the upper hand. We live in fear. We always hear about arrests. Just one small detail, and the person is gone. No one's life is spared. I sit at home and do not go out at all, so that nobody can say anything about me."

A letter published 3 March 1938, written to "L" on 3 January 1938, came from Chortitza, and was signed "Z." Describing the year 1937, it lamented, "We have entered the new year. We have fear in our hearts regarding the future. We have struggled through severe storms, but have never before had such a feeling of lack of comfort...When my husband died you sent me words of comfort which I found hard to understand. Now I am thankful to God that my loved one does not have to go this way...Many women have now told me that I am fortunate that I could bury my husband. They would sooner have buried their husbands than to have delivered them like this."

The writer mentioned a number of men, such as a Mr Langemann and his brother, a Minister

Johann Neufeld and his son-in-law who were “gone” (*weg*). Almost impossible to believe, she reported a number of deaths due to natural causes!

Sources: all from *Der Bote*:

Letter written 3 January 1937, published 10 March 1937, p 5

Letter written 31 January 1937, published 14 April 1937, p 6

Pictures of the British Royal Family 12 May 1937

Letters published 14 July 1937, pp 5, 6

Letter published 15 September 1937, p 5

Letter 3 January 1938, published 3 March 1938, pp 4, 5

FORGIVE?

The question of Mennonites forgiving the Russian Soviets for the past atrocities against humanity is difficult to answer. Can one ever forgive a person who undoubtedly has been the most brutal and cruel ruler in history? The magnitude of the crimes is beyond comprehension. Total deaths over 20,000,000? Countless people inhumanly tortured. Countless others frozen to death or starved to death in concentration camps or simply abandoned to their own fate. Many more millions driven from house and home and mostly separated from their loved ones. And this was not inadvertent – it was planned.

As early as 1974 Solzhenitsyn felt that Russians should seek “an internal freedom of conscience and redemption through penitence.” He also believed that Stalin was not alone, but that he had millions of accomplices in his crimes. He felt that the entire nation should confess the guilt of the past. (*Time*, 25 November 1974)

Other countries have repented of their crimes against humanity. Germany brought 85,000 former Nazis to trial. South Africa had “truth commissions” to deal with the crimes of the past. In Russia, on the other hand, there have been no official investigations, no hearings, no “truth commissions” to deal with the murders or massacres in the USSR. More than fifty years after the death of the principal perpetrator there is now no sign that the nation will come to terms with its criminal past. As a matter of fact, with some of the former KGB officials still in power, the Russians are now trying to rewrite the history of the Stalin era. It seems to be easier to change the story of history than to repent of it. The recent police raids on agencies gathering information about the Gulag would confirm that this is the official response.

Mennonites are therefore left in a dilemma. Do they forgive someone who, far from asking for forgiveness, is even trying to deny that the atrocities ever occurred?

The purpose of this book is to document the events, to make sure that they cannot be swept aside either by loss of memory, or even worse, by willfully falsifying the record. It will have to be decided by those who suffered directly, whether or not they can forgive people who have not, and do not seem willing to repent.

Many of the ideas of this page come from the writings of Harry Loewen, whose father was arrested and executed in 1937. From *Between Worlds: Reflections of a Soviet-born Canadian Mennonite*, Pandora Press, Kitchener, Ontario, 2006 pp 42-43

EPILOGUE - THOSE REMAINING

Up to this point the main emphasis of this book has been on those who were arrested, wrenched from their homes, and then sentenced either to death or exile. The vast majority of those arrested were men, in most instances leaving behind wives and children. The actual parting in some instances was thought to be temporary, although by 1937 most knew it was likely permanent. On occasion a tearful farewell was permitted, even with prayer and carefully chosen last words. More often it was sudden, with no opportunity for meaningful last words.

There was still, in many instances, the hope that with innocence the "misunderstanding" would be clarified in a few days or weeks. Little did they realize that "enemy of the people" or "saboteur" was a label applied to all innocent people, and punishment had nothing to do with the facts of the case. Sometimes families were able to visit the prisoner for a few weeks, carefully monitored by the jail authorities. Packages of food and clean underwear could occasionally be delivered. Then most often the husband had been "transferred." This was thought to have been going into exile, even to the far reaches of Siberia; much later it was discovered that it often had meant execution. In a few instances the family found out that they had actually been walking over the grave of their loved one, buried the night of the arrest, in one case, behind the barn.

In many instances, still with hope, the wife then had to cope with the realities of making a living to feed and house her family. The men arrested were mostly fairly young, so there were often young children; a number of the women were actually pregnant at the time, and so had an additional mouth to feed a few months later. The difficulties were compounded by the fact that many families had been disenfranchised, and therefore had difficulty finding employment. Scratching out an existence through whatever was available was the common thread for those remaining.

With the German invasion of Russia in June of 1941 circumstances changed. The Soviets tried to evacuate anyone of foreign origin from the path of the rapidly advancing German Army. So it was that many of the Mennonite women with their children were deported to Kazakhstan, often to be dumped off in the most desolate areas. The fortunate ones, whom the Soviets did not have time to evacuate from Ukraine, were soon living in relative peace in German-occupied territory.

But the tides of war changed. After the victory at Stalingrad, the Soviets gradually pushed the German forces back. By the summer of 1943 the front was approaching many of the Mennonite settlements. The Mennonites felt that their only hope of escape was to join the retreating German Army. So it was that about 35,000 Mennonites joined the Great Trek, heading westward to Poland and Germany. Many of these people were wives and children of the men who had been arrested. They knew full well, that if their loved ones were still alive, this would lessen the chances of them ever meeting again.

The Soviet Army was advancing rapidly, so a considerable number of those on the Great Trek were actually not able to escape. Together with those who were later kidnaped from the Western Zones of occupation, about 23,000 Mennonites were "repatriated." Of the families listed in this book, at least ten were described as having been in this category. Upon capture most were sent to the North of Russia, to Siberia or to Kazakhstan. About 12,000 made it safely and were able to stay in the Western Zones. Most of these refugees wished to immigrate to Canada; many had relatives living there.

There are many interesting stories of harrowing escapes and inspiring miracles. A number of the refugees were able to make it to Berlin, but then could go no further, because they were surrounded by the Soviet Zone. Peter Dyck and the Mennonite Central Committee were able to engineer the "Berlin Escape" early in 1947, by which 1,200 refugees avoided the joys of repatriation.

Canada did admit some refugees, but a considerable number had to settle for Paraguay or other South American countries. Colony Neuland in the hot Paraguayan Chaco was established after World War II by refugees from Europe. At an organizing meeting of heads of families in Neuland held 30 September 1947 there were 52 women and 32 men. Fully 40% of the families had no fathers. It was remarked that fathers and grown sons had been arrested in the Soviet Union, and were either sent into exile or executed.

So life went on. In a very few instances those exiled actually survived their ordeal. In even fewer instances they were able escape the Soviet Union to rejoin their families. With the collapse of Communism (not sure it actually did collapse) there has been the possibility of further family reunions, although by that time many of the principal participants had died.

Millions suffered arrest, and subsequent sentencing to either exile or death. Many more millions of families suffered almost as much through loss of loved ones and difficult circumstances. All this principally to satisfy the unquenchable lust for power and paranoia of one incredibly evil dictator, Joseph Stalin.

It is probably too much to hope that we will learn from this, "so that can it never happen again." Unfortunately cruel dictators are not governed by what is written in history books. Avarice and corruption almost always seem to trump kindness and decency.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Helmut T Huebert is a semi-retired orthopaedic surgeon practicing in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He was born in Alberta, but then as a boy moved from place to place during the time his father intermittently taught Bible school and received further education. In 1948 the family moved to Winnipeg, where Huebert obtained his highschool, university and most of his medical education.

While actively pursuing his chosen profession, he also has a deep commitment to Jesus Christ. This has been expressed by his participation in his local congregation, the Portage Avenue Church (Mennonite Brethren), as well as provincial, national and international boards. He has also been involved in 20 short term foreign medical assignments.

One of Huebert's longstanding interests is history, particularly that of his own heritage, Mennonite history. He has published "Hierschau: An example of Russian Mennonite Life" (1986), Kornelius Martens: Our Skillful Advocate" (1986), "Events and People: Events in Russian Mennonite History and the People that Made Them Happen" (1999), "Molotschna Historical Atlas" (2003), "Mennonite Estates in Imperial Russia" (2005), "Mennonites in the Cities of Imperial Russia Vol 1" (2006) and "Mennonites in the Cities of Imperial Russia Vol 2" (2008). Together with William Schroeder of Winnipeg he has published "Mennonite Historical Atlas" (1996), which by Canadian standards is a bestseller (over 6,500 sold).

This book, detailing the events of 1937, is of some personal interest to Huebert. Two of his own uncles were arrested that year as part of the purge; a number of people at Portage Avenue Church lost their fathers. So, while it is of general historical interest, it also represents the direct impact of history on people.

Helmut and his wife Dorothy have three children, Karen, David and Susan, and four grandchildren, David, Alison, Matthew and Katherine.



Stalin's Year of Terror

Stalin's rule would forever etch itself on the pages of history as an example of the unimaginable lengths to which such suppression and destruction of huge segments of the population could be taken. For a long time there seemed to be no measures and resources left in the land to put on brakes, and call an end to the outright killings of many millions of Russians, including Mennonites, these are brought to our attention in the study undertaken here.

The story of "1937" presents in the most painfully stark outline what this mini-holocaust, if you would, the Stalin purging policies came to mean for Mennonites in particular. In so doing, this account provides a more complete picture of these horrible realities than all other studies have done till now.

—Lawrence Klippenstein, *Former Archivist and Director
Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg*